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18 June 1981

South and East Asia Report

No. 1017

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PAPER REPORTS GANDHI TALKS WITH UAE PRESIDENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 81 pp 1, 9

[Article by M. Shamim: "Non-Aligned Can Counter Big-Power Threat, Says PM"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 12. While Mrs Indira Gandhi, the visiting Indian Prime Minister, and Sheikh Zayed, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), today agreed that there should be solidarity among the nations, particularly the non-aligned, to save the Indian Ocean region from superpower intervention and open war, the official delegations of the two countries resolved to set up an Indo-UAE joint investment company, besides closer co-operation with each other.

An official spokesman said that neither yesterday nor today did Mrs Gandhi discuss any bilateral issues with the UAE President. The two leaders met today for two hours in the most friendly and cordial atmosphere and exchanged general views on the international situation. They also talked about the policies and aims of the superpowers in the Indian sub-continent.

Both leaders reviewed the problems of security from the regional point of view. They were of the opinion that the problems of security of countries in a region were closely inter-linked.

The main thrust of the talks was that the countries in the region could withstand any superpower intervention and avert "open war" only through solidarity and strengthening of the non-aligned movement.

In this regard, Mrs Gandhi dealt with India's relations with her two neighbours--Pakistan and Bangladesh. She said India was "genuinely interested in seeing that both the countries were strong."

She also reiterated her stand on the arms build-up in Pakistan, while agreeing that Pakistan should have adequate arms supply. "India deplores anything that would lead to the aggravation of the situation and our area being used by others," she added.

The UAE President said he was very happy about Mrs Gandhi's visit to his country, which always considered India as a close friend. He paid compliments to the Indian Prime Minister for her sagacious leadership.

Mrs Gandhi said India had been a staunch supporter of the Arab cause and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Soon after she returned to power, her government granted diplomatic status to the PLO and Mr Yasser Arafat, its chief, visited India, she added. Sheikh Zayed expressed great satisfaction with the Indian policy.

The two leaders were assisted by one aide each--Dr P. C. Alexander from the Indian side and Sheikh Ahmed Khalifa al Suweidi, a former foreign minister, as the President's representative.

/On the economic front, the UAE said that it would raise its oil supply to India from 1 to 1.5 million tonnes and also agreed to consider favourably any future requests for more oil./ [in boldface]

The UAE delegation headed by Dr Mana Saeed Aloteiba, minister for petroleum and mineral resources, welcomed the liberalisation of the industrial policy in India.

The proposed joint investment company will finance projects in industrial and other sectors in India, the UAE and third countries, purely on a commercial basis. There are already several specific proposals for it to consider, including a refinery and fertiliser and steel plants. Besides this, the UAE will provide India with loans on soft terms for projects through the Abu Dhabi Fund. The loans are meant for Indian power generation, irrigation and fertiliser projects.

Both the sides agreed that banking facilities should be improved in the two countries. More branches of the banks of each country should be opened in the other.

There will be greater cooperation between the countries in the health sector. The UAE is anxious to improve its health services. The Indo-UAE joint commission, which will shortly meet here, will consider cooperation in this field. It will also take up the traditional use of Indian expertise and consultancy services.

CSO: 4220

RAJIV GANDHI HOLDS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 May 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Sultanpur, May 11 (UNI): Mr Rajiv Gandhi today said it was the keenness the people of Amethi and a feeling that there was need for infusion of a new style of functioning in the organisation that made him enter the politics.

Asked what type of style of functioning of the organisation he wanted to infuse, Mr Gandhi quipped, 'Hard work.'

Mr Gandhi was addressing his first press conference after filing the nomination papers.

Clad to spotless by white khaki kurta and pyjamas, Mr Gandhi said he wanted to devote most of his time to his constituency. He rated as 'very good' his chances of winning the byelection.

Mr Gandhi was at east at his first formal press conference.

Suave and soft-spoken besides being courteous, Mr Gandhi was forthright in his replies to questions from the large number of newsmen.

He said the decision to enter politics was his own which he took in the absence of his mother from the country in response to the party workers' demand.

He said he resigned his job with the Indian Airlines on 5 May and his resignation was accepted the same day.

No Patch-Up Bid

True to his reputation as a soft-spoken man of few words, Mr Gandhi's replies to questions were crisp and brief.

Asked whether he had met Mr Sharad Pawar in an effort to unite the two Congress parties, he replied: 'I made no such effort. I do not remember having met Mr Pawar.

Q: What do you think is the solution to the problem of price rise?

Mr Gandhi: Increasing production.

Question: Why did you take so much time in deciding to contest?

Answer: I have not taken much time. The nominations I have opened just now and here I am.

Q: Will you keep the promises made by Sanjay Gandhi?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you think there is need to reorganise the Youth Congress.

A: The Youth Congress has just been reorganised. Let us see how it functions.

Q: Did you consult your mother before deciding to contest the by-elections?

A: I took the decision on my own in her absence from the country let her come back.

Q: Will you continue flying?

A: I have already stopped flying. Am I flying?

Q: You have an interview criticising that there were dirty men in the political parties.

A: I made no such statement. Anyway, there is no dirty man in my party.

Q: You were making some efforts to unite the two Congress parties and had met Mr Sharad Pawar in this connection.

A: I made no such efforts. I do not remember if I have met Mr Sharad Pawar.

Q: Why did you keep your visit unannounced?

A: I do not like fanfare. I like quiet ways.

Q: What will be your policy on the burning issues before the country?

A: I will follow the party line. After all I am a very junior member of the party.

Mr Gandhi left for Amethi soon after the press conference to address a party worker's meeting there. He will stay there for the night and will leave for Lucknow early tomorrow morning on his way back to Delhi.

As his nomination papers were being checked, Mr Rajiv Gandhi obliged a large number of cameramen, both Indian and foreign, and smilingly posed for them.

Flanking him were Mrs Sonia Gandhi in a blue printed sari and Mr Arun Nehru, MP.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included UPCC(I) president Bishambar Nath Pande, Chief Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and several of his Ministerial colleagues, Mr M. L Foteder and Mr Ajitabh Bachchan (brother of film star Amitabh Bachchan).

The police had a hard time in controlling hundreds of Congress-I workers who had been swarming the district magistrate's court room since early morning.

Welcome

Union Home Minister Zail Singh said at Ludhiana, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's entry into Congress-I would give 'new light' to youth in the country. Mr Gandhi was a capable person, he added.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjun Singh welcomed Mr Rajiv Gandhi's entry into active politics.

"I greet Mr Rajiv Gandhi for having taken a positive step to dedicate himself in the service of the nation," he said in Bhopal.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Ram Lal said the entry of Mr Rajiv Gandhi into active politics would not only prove an asset to the party but he would emerge as a popular leader also.

Andhra Chief Minister T Anjiah has sent a telegram to Mr Gandhi congratulating him on his selection as the Congress-I party's candidate to the Amethi Lok Sabha byelection.

Indian National Trade Union Congress president N K Bhatt, MP, welcomed Mr Gandhi's decision to contest the Amethi seat.

"I am sure he will emulate his father, the late Mr Feroz Gandhi, a towering parliamentarian of his time," he added.

CSO: 4220

CPI SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCES ELECTION POSITION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 May 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] The Communist Party of India will support Mr H N Bahuguna in Garhwal and Mr Rabi Ray in Cuttack parliamentary by-elections and will call upon the people to vote unreservedly against both the Congress-I and Bharatiya Janata Party.

Announcing this the central secretariat of the CPI said in Delhi on Saturday that the party would project the perspective of a left and democratic alternative on a radical socio-economic programme directed against the monopolists, landlords and profiteers and for raising living standards and democratic rights of the people.

The Cong-I had failed to fulfil a single electoral promise. Mounting inflation, rising unemployment, continued atrocities against Harijans, women and weaker sections of the society, continuation of communal disturbances, collapse of law and order in many parts of the country were the results of the 18 months of Cong-I rule.

The statement said while unlimited concessions were being given daily to the monopolists, multinationals and traders in black money, the working class, the peasantry, employers and other sections of the working people had been hit hard by the present Government's policies. Wage freeze was sought to be imposed on the working class, trade union rights were ruthlessly attacked and repression let loose against the resistance of the working class.

The peasant was being denied remunerative prices and was being allowed to be exploited freely by monopolists and wholesale traders, land reforms had been abandoned and the rural poor left to the mercy of landlords and police. While prices kept on rising, no effect was being made to evolve a viable public distribution system for essential commodities.

The statement said plans were being made to topple the Left Front Governments of West Bengal and Tripura and the Left and Democratic Government in Kerala. And then a "conspiracy" was afoot to replace the parliamentary system of democracy by presidential system thus making the executive supreme.

The BJP, "a political outfit of the communal RSS", was trying to emerge as a viable national alternative supported by powerful monopolists, traders and landlords.

CSO: 4220/7815

RAJIV REPORTED WORKING FOR CONGRESS PARTY UNITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 May 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, May 17.

The current moves for encouraging some of the Prime Minister's former Congress colleagues to rejoin her in a spirit of reconciliation have been initiated to a large extent by her son, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who feels that the middle base of the Indian polity needs to be consolidated in the larger national interest.

Mrs. Gandhi has herself been veering round to the view that Congressmen of all shades sharing a common political culture, who are temperamentally capable of working together, should shed their past differences and strengthen her hands in implementing the Congress programmes.

After toying with this idea for some time, she had practically given it up because of the mounting opposition from the vested interests in the Congress (I) to the very idea of bringing back those who had left her or worked actively against her while she was out of office. Their main complaint was that her former colleagues who had let her down badly during that critical period should not be shown any preference over others who had loyally stood by her.

But Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has done some silent spadework in dispelling these fears that the return of leaders like Mr. Y. B. Chavan or Mr. Siddharth Shankar Ray would in any way lead to a downgrading of those who have been with Mrs. Gandhi all these years for whatever reason.

Selective admission: He has assured them that what was being contemplated was only a selective admission of those acceptable to Mrs. Gandhi, not a merger of the two Congress parties in any form.

The Prime Minister also has been assuring some of the antagonists of this move that there was no question of inducting these old Congressmen straightway into pivotal positions in the Government. They would have to work their way up and get absorbed in the normal course, without upsetting the present inner party balances.

One reason why Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has been taking a keen interest in bringing back some of the old stalwarts is that he believes the ruling party has to be

strengthened to be able to withstand the mounting onslaughts frm [as published] the extreme right and the extreme left in the years ahead.

The future challenge to the ruling Congress will be posed by the Jan Sangh and the communists with all other Opposition parties becoming increasingly ineffective and irrelevant in this triangular configuration.

Reservations: But the attempt to open the Congress (I) doors on a selective basis to only those who are acceptable to Mrs. Gandhi has been inhibiting many of the aspirants who would have otherwise come forward to rejoin her.

The hesitation of leaders like Mr. Sharad Pawar whom Mrs. Gandhi would like to readmit has obliged those who have already made up their minds to join the Congress (I) to wait for some more time, since they would like to get back to her fold in a sizable group with all the appearance of a mini-merger without the stigma of selective admission.

The attempt to apply a narrow loyalty test and prejudge the utility of the new entrants on the basis of their past attitudes might prove to be counterproductive in the sense that it would lead to further stratification.

It is not easy to prescribe credible norms which entitle leaders like Mr. Chavan, Mr. S. S. Ray, Mr. Swaran Singh, Mr. B. R. Bhagat, Mr. K. C. Pant and Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munshi to join the Congress (I), while disqualifying others like Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Mr. Devaraj Urs, Dr. Karan Singh, Mr. D. K. Barooah and Mr. Rajni Patel. There are some at the middle level who are wanted but not too eager to take the plunge at this stage.

The unity moves might be delayed by at least a month until Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is free from the by-election to pick up the threads of the private parleys that have been going on for some months. But the delay by itself will not in any way be lessening the significance of the effort to bring back leaders like Mr. Chavan to lend greater weight to the ruling party and enable it to emerge as the real Congress representing all shades of Congress opinion.

Newer elements may be eased out: The very process of revamping the ruling party will inevitably lead to the downgrading of the newer elements who have managed to catapult themselves into key governmental positions in the absence of more experienced men. A number of them are due to be either eased out or relegated into less important places in any case. So the mere induction of some of the older Congressmen into the ruling party will not by itself lead to an abrupt tilt in the inner-party equations.

The main contribution of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to this whole exercise is his effort to keep these two issues quite separate as far as possible. He makes no secret of his disappointment with the performance of many of the Ministers who were installed in key positions in the hurly-burly of Cabinet formation after the last elections.

And the whole attempt to bring back some of the older and more experienced men into the ruling party clearly reflects Mrs. Gandhi's doubts that she may not be able to carry the burden of governing this vast and complex country with the present team.

It is not necessary for her to induct all the newcomers straightway into her Cabinet, since their presence in the party would help to provide a greater depth and dimension to it. And the very prospect of absorbing them into the Government would set the tone for improving the quality of administration.

CSO: 4220/7819

AKALI DAL (LONGOWAL) MEETING ELECTS OFFICERS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 May 81 p 1

[Text] Chandigarh, May 17.

Sant Harchand Singh Longowal was unanimously reelected president of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Longowal) at Amritsar today.

Former Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal proposed Sant Longowal's name which was seconded by the SGPC president Gurcharan Singh Tohra. The house authorised Sant Longowal to appoint 11 members to the working committee.

The house resolved, reiterated and proclaimed that Sikhs are a nation and their religious, political, historical and cultural heritage "fully vouchsafes this fact."

Sikh State Demand

The House also resolved unanimously that in view of their historical, religious and cultural heritage "Sikhs are a separate nation" and Mr Longowal gave a call to the entire 'Sikh qoum' to fight for what was long due to the community.

Till now, the assertion "Sikhs are a nation" had been voiced only by the interim party president Sant Longowal and SGPC chief Gurcharan Singh Tohra. With the camp led by Parkash Singh Badal resisting the assertion its approval by the party as a whole had remained in doubt. Today's unanimous resolution by party's newly-constituted general house indicated that 'moderates' in the party have been over taken by what are broadly branded as the 'hard core extremists'.

Thus, the Akali Dal (Longowal) has implicitly made common cause with the shrinking Akali Dal (T).

The newly-elected general house also resolved to continue the struggle for "more financial powers to the States" within a federal framework of the country's Constitution.

Charge Against Centre

Addressing the general house later, Sant Longowal asked for full cooperation from the party's rank and file to achieve objectives of the Akali Dal and Panth. He

charged the Central Government for breaking the Nehru Tara Singh Pact and amending the Delhi Gurdwara Act to install a political stooge of the Cong-I in power in the Delhi Gurdwara Management Committee.

The house adopted another resolution which blamed the Central and State Cong-I Governments for flagrant interference in the affairs of the Sikh community and SGPC by managing to send a jatha of Sikh pilgrims under the leadership of a 'stooge'. It called upon the Government to declare Amritsar a holy city at part with Hardwar, Varanasi and Kurukshetra.

It also called upon all the minority communities to come together on one platform to fight the 'tyrant attitude' of the majority of the people. It said that as long as the socio-economic situation of the Scheduled Castes and backward classes did not improve the reservations in service and other facilities to them should be continued.

CSO: 4220/7820

GANDHI MEETS PRESS ON RETURN FROM MIDDLE EAST

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 May 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Dubai, May 13. Mrs Indira Gandhi today described her current tour as successful, considering that she had come to express India's friendship with the Gulf countries.

Addressing a press conference at the conclusion of her four-day visit to the UAE and Kuwait, she said: "I have been able to convey this."

Asked to comment on her son's entry into politics, Mrs Gandhi said: "What comment do you expect from me? Our family has been closely related to the freedom struggle. This is the second phase of the struggle, the economic struggle. This thing is deeply ingrained in our family. He wants to help the people. What is the harm?"

Asked to elaborate India's point of view about the Indian Ocean, she said it should be an area of peace. This was neither a new point nor an Indian point of view. It was the view of all littoral states. The UN also had accepted it.

"Did the question of arms to Pakistan crop up during your talks with Arab leaders?" She said if such aid increased the tension in the area, then her country was opposed to it.

"If there is an arms race, it leads to increased tension. There is already a war in the region. So giving of arms to Pakistan may lead to an increase in tension."

Question: What is India's opinion about the rapid deployment force?

Mrs Gandhi: It does not affect India directly. It is for the Gulf countries to express their opinion.

About the Gulf council aim, she said it was a good idea. It would be good for them to get together and strengthen themselves.

On the communal situation in the country, Mrs Gandhi said that India had all the religions of the world. Each religion had a large number of followers. India's Muslim population was the second largest in the world. They all lived in harmony. It was true that some very unfortunate incidents happened "causing great pain and

anguish to us all. The communal tension is sometimes not between Muslims and non-Muslims, but between members of different castes and between the members of the same caste. This kind of violence was not confined to India alone. It is going on all over the world. It is going on in Northern Ireland, the U.S. and European countries. To single out India is, therefore, not realistic.

At her meeting with the Indian ambassadors, Mrs Gandhi advised them to make special efforts to improve the country's image in the region and create a climate for better economic cooperation between India and the Gulf countries.

Among those who attended the meeting were the ambassadors to Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, South Yemen and North Yemen.

The envoys first briefed the Prime Minister about the situation in the countries they were posted to. The external affairs minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, was also present.

The Prime Minister told the envoys to counter the propaganda being carried out by some people that India was an underdeveloped and weak country. India, she said, had made a lot of progress since independence in every field, including industry. They should create a climate suitable for investments.

Efforts should also be made for finding suitable outlets in the region for Indian manpower. This could be alone only if a lot of goodwill was generated by the envoys.

PTI adds: Mrs Gandhi said her visit to the UAE was "a small step in the direction of strengthening and renewing our friendship and making it more relevant to modern contemporary conditions."

She was addressing the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the 35-story Trade Centre, the tallest building in West Asia.

Mrs Gandhi hoped the talks her ministers and officials had in UAE would lead to closer economic and other cooperation and to the mutual benefit of both countries.

Mrs Gandhi said she was privileged to visit the UAE and see the "tremendous" advance it was making. It was true that UAE was taking advantage of the discovery of oil, a commodity which was really the basis of modern technology and contemporary living, but more than petroleum and the money it brought, it was the wisdom of leaders here to plan and use it for the progress of this region that was to be admired.

Recalling the ties between the Gulf countries and India, Mrs Gandhi said during the colonial period somehow our eyes were distracted from our neighbours near or far and had been directed further afar and we always looked towards Europe."

"How many times we have passed this region on our way to European capitals and never thought of stopping here. It was a big mistake on our part and it was a loss to us. It was high time this was rectified and I am glad to have had this opportunity of coming here and meeting a large number of people and seeing more than what is possible in a very short time," Mrs Gandhi said.

Mrs Gandhi said while India was deeply conscious of the old traditions of friendship, "we are equally conscious that no friendship can be taken for granted or for that matter any other thing in this world. There has to be a constant effort at strengthening and renewing friendship and making it more relevant to contemporary conditions."

Earlier, Mr Saif Ahmad al Ghurair, president of Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, welcoming the Prime Minister said that growing bilateral trade should be enlarged to the extent that India became the first among countries trading with the UAE.

He noted that India was at present exporting not only consumer goods but also manufactured goods, machines and transport equipment.

Mr Ahmed said it was time to develop the trade to agree with the jet and advanced technology age. "It is our duty to open the doors for the technical expertise and experiences available in your country to play their role in promoting cooperation between our two friendly countries."

Imports from India into UAE had doubled during the last six years and amounted to about 700 million dirhams (Rs 140 crores) which made India rank as the tenth among countries exporting to the UAE.

As an indication of the developing cooperation between India and the UAE, the chamber president said financial remittances of Indian residents here were estimated to be not less than Rs 600 crores in 1980. Mr Ahmed also conveyed "our satisfaction of the harmony prevailing between the Indian community and our people as well as the other communities, all of whom are cooperating in building this country and establishing a happy life."

UNI adds: Businessmen in the UAE have expressed willingness to invest substantially in industrial projects in India.

Mrs Gandhi was told by the chamber president that its members wished to increase trade with India.

Reliable sources say the chamber has already sent a memorandum to Mrs Gandhi seeking additional concessions for foreign investment.

The memorandum, which is currently being examined by the finance ministry, says that repayment of foreign investment and payment of dividends and interests should be guaranteed by the government, and that investors of equity and loan capital should be allowed to repatriate funds in foreign exchange along with dividends and interest.

It further states that as in the case of interest received by foreign investors from foreign loans, dividends received by them should also be exempted from income-tax.

The tax holiday in the form of exemption from income-tax allowed should be modified so that no tax would become leviable until the venture had paid back and repatriated the foreign investment, and that the state governments in India should ensure the availability of power and water at lower rates for an agreed initial period.

CSO: 4220

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON GANDHI'S UAE VISIT REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 May 81 p 9

[Article by M. Shamim: "'W. Asia's Stability Linked to India's'"]

[Text] Dubai, May 13. In a joint communique, both India and the UAE today said that the stability of West Asia and the Indian sub-continent were closely interlinked. The communique called for the removal of the presence of super powers in the region in any form, both on land and in sea, and strict adherence to the UN charter and to the non-aligned movement by the countries in the region.

They asserted that the development of each country should be the responsibility of its own people. Outside influence would only thwart efforts.

The communique said that India's Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and the UAE President, Sheikh Zayed, the vice-president and Prime Minister, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Almaktom, and member of the supreme council, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammad al Qassimi, held detailed discussions on matters of mutual interest.

The discussions revealed close views on a wide range of issues. The discussions were held in a fraternal atmosphere of cordiality, mutual trust and understanding.

The two sides also noted with grave concern the situation in Afghanistan. India's Prime Minister and the UAE leaders called for an urgent and comprehensive political settlement of the question on the basis of full respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aligned status of Afghanistan, withdrawal of foreign troops and strict observance of the principles of non-interference and non-intervention.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

They expressed their deep concern and distress at the Iran-Iraq conflict and felt that its continuation would have grave implications for both regional and global peace and security, besides undermining the solidarity of non-aligned and developing countries.

They expressed the hope that the two would resolve their differences in accordance with the principles of the non-aligned movement as enunciated in the agreement of the governments of Iran and Iraq in para 86 of the New Delhi declaration.

The UAE and India expressed unreserved support for the efforts being made by the non-aligned ministerial committee as well as the efforts of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations to restore peace in the region in pursuance of the mandate given to them.

The UAE leaders and the Prime Minister of India expressed grave concern over the increasing escalation of great power pre ence in the Indian Ocean against the express wishes of the littoral and hinterland states of the Ocean.

They noted with serious concern the expansion of military bases and all others manifestations of intensified military presence in the Ocean by great powers and called on them to progressively reduce and eventually eliminate their presence from the Ocean.

The leaders reaffirmed the need to redouble efforts for the speedy implementation of the declaration of the Ocean as a zone of peace, as contained in the 1971 UN general assembly resolution on this subject.

In this context, both sides reiterated their determination to work for the success of the conference on the Ocean, which is scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka later this year. To this end, they urged all great powers and other major maritime users of the Ocean to participate in the conference.

The leaders recalled the historic and profound relations between their countries and stressed that the traditional relations had flowered into evergrowing relationship between the two countries.

The two sides reiterated the urgent need to develop these relations to the mutual benefit of the people of both the countries on the basis of mutual respect, strict observance of sovereignty and non-interference in each other's affairs.

Source of Danger

The UAE leaders and the prime minister of India noted with concern the deteriorating situation in West Asia and emphasised that it was a source of danger for the peace and stability of the region. They renewed their call for the immediate withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories, including Jerusalem, occupied by it since June, 1967. The leaders were convinced that no solution to this problem could be found without the participation of the PLO as a full partner in the negotiations.

They reiterated that an equitable and lasting solution should take into account the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return to their homeland and to establish their independent state.

The UAE side expressed deep appreciation of India's consistent and firm policy of supporting the Arab and Palestinian cause. India reiterated that this policy, based on principles, would continue and India would coordinate efforts with the UAE to further promote the Palestinians' struggle for their rights. The two sides strongly condemned Israel's brutal aggression against Lebanon, attempts at

sabotaging its sovereignty and annihilating the Lebanese and Palestinian people. They reaffirmed the need for protecting the unity and sovereity of Lebanon.

The communique called upon the super powers to make every possible effort to put an end to the Israeli aggression which was threatening the peace and security of the region.

CSO: 4220

WRITER DISCUSSES CANDIDACY OF RAJIV GANDHI

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 May 81 p 8

[Article by Sunanda K. Datta-ray: "High-Flier in Politics: "Justifying Rajiv Gandhi's Birthright"]

[Text] Just as Mr Rajiv Gandhi is believed to have set the stage for February's kisan rally and then disappeared into the wings, the Prime Minister too apparently completed arrangements for her son's political debut before going abroad. Mother and son would appear to be careful not to steal each other's closely directed limelight.

The timing of Mr Gandhi's announcement too could not have been better managed. The alleged sabotage of the Makalu had whipped up fears about the dynasty's survival and evoked fervently renewed protestations of personal loyalty. Formal revocation of the 1978 resolution expelling Mrs Gandhi from the Lok Sabha reaffirmed her unblemished official record in politics. The damp squib of an Opposition no confidence motion confirmed the ruling party's sense of security. In addition, Mr Gandhi's candidacy from Amethi will lend to next month's by-elections an interest they might otherwise have lacked.

Amethi Crowning

The exercise's only compelling feature until monday evening was the poll in West Bengal, distinguished by the shabby machinations and deplorable riotousness of Congress(I) leaders, and by the Election Commission's unedifyingly controversial role. The Centre cannot have viewed with equanimity the almost certain prospect of Left Front gains setting at naught every stratagem to prevent the contest. Nor, with the indifferent talent at its disposal, could the Congress(I) High Command do anything to prevent another rejection at the hustings. But it can provide a far more dramatic alternative attraction that will hold the attention of the country and the world: the public anointing of Mrs Gandhi's heir presumptive. No regal investiture could be more solemn or significant than the electoral ritual in Amethi.

Mr Gandhi exercised considerable authority even without benefit of the ceremony. A Chief Minister who wanted a new Governor for his State, regional leaders who hankered for the ruling party's benediction, an Youth Congress(I) politician who complained of unwarranted expulsion, Union Ministers who sought preferment, M.P.s looking for appointments, and the host of courtiers and hangers-on in the Delhi

durbar, did not hesitate to take their troubles to the one person whom they rightly identified as the power behind the throne. All the evidence suggests that Mr Gandhi handled their applications with a responsible sense of fairness; and that his willingness to listen to arguments and to see reason made a favourable impression on those who came into contact with him.

But the credit of tempering the exercise of power with justice did not make the power itself any more legitimate. The plain fact was that Rajiv Gandhi had no business listening to petitions and taking the decisions that he did. They properly belonged to his mother's office, and the most that he was entitled to do, as a dutiful son anxious to spare her additional worries, was to give private advice without ever obtruding into the public view. Mr Denis Thatcher in Britain offers an admirable example of a member of the family to whom no one would dream of applying--and would be firmly repudiated if anyone tried to do so--no matter how influential he might be within the privacy of Number Ten.

The Prime Minister obviously wanted her son to play a more assertive role than Mrs Thatcher's husband. Equally obviously, Mr Gandhi was not content with the anonymity of domestic control. Taking both factors into account, and bearing in mind the unhealthy tendency in Indian politics for decisions to be guided by shadowy personages (whether secretaries, gurus or relatives) who cannot be held accountable to voters for the advice they give, I have urged in these columns that Mr Gandhi should emerge from behind his mother's skirts and be man enough publicly to accept responsibility for the part he was playing. That he has at last done so is a point in his favour. To that extent, his resignation from Indian Airlines, membership of the Congress(I) and nomination by the party's Central Parliamentary Board, though circumventing normal evolution, must be welcomed as the honest summation of months of behind-the-scenes stewardship.

Of his political ambitions there was never very much doubt, in spite of the ostentatious reluctance, the palpable irritation with reception committees, the spurning of garlands, and deferring to his "seniors." Such ambition is entirely understandable in a man of 37 whose only previous authority was over aeroplanes, and who suddenly found the world at his feet when a tragic accident killed his brother last June. What probably delayed the plunge--apart from the genuine inhibitions to which those who know Mr Gandhi pay tribute--was the domestic equation in 1 Safdarjang Road, and the expectation of many of the Youth Congress(I)'s leading lights that Sanjay Gandhi's young widow would carry the torch he had lit, a la Sri Lanka's Mrs Bandaranaike. The Prime Minister could not afford open dissension either in her house or in her party; it has taken all these months to convince the adherents of her late son that Mrs Maneka Gandhi is not to be allowed any share of her husband's mantle, and that unless they are reconciled to Rajiv Gandhi's leadership, they cannot look forward to any political future. While the force and determination with which that point was driven home may have been expected of Mrs Gandhi, it belies the general view of her elder son as a pleasant amiable and easygoing young man.

Sanjay's Mettle

Nevertheless, major differences of personality, style and experience set Rajiv Gandhi apart from his deceased brother. In the view of a former M.P., while Sanjay Gandhi operated on patients without chloroform, his brother never fails to

use anaesthetic. It might be added that, unlike his brother, Rajiv Gandhi does not depend only on personal wisdom in choosing either patients or the most appropriate form of surgery; he is said to consult different points of view and take factors like the patient's health and wishes into account.

Whether this more considerate approach is an adequate qualification for the hurly burly of politics is, however, an altogether different matter. In spite of all that is said to the discredit of Sanjay Gandhi--and admittedly his manner and methods often invited stringent criticism--he was in tune with the most common denominator of Indian life in a way that his mother and maternal grandfather, responding most readily to civilized Anglo-Saxon mores, never were. Even the friends he chose were more representative of the general run of our society--of the rough, brusque and grasping level that is gradually coming into its own--than the rarefied milieu in which Nehru liked to spend his time when not wooing voters, and which Mrs Gandhi too is said to prefer outside duty hours. Sanjay Gandhi's very earthiness established and consolidated rapport with the close-knot band of toughs who were to prove so vital to his mother's political resuscitation in January 1980.

This leads to the question of experience. Sanjay Gandhi made no mark in parliamentary debate during the five months that he sat in the Lok Sabha. But he was already a veteran politician by the time he was returned from Amethi with a margin of more than 128,000 votes. Not only had he tasted sobering defeat at the same hustings, but he had also during the two and a half years of his mother's eclipse, strategically reorganized the party and shaped and honed its storm-troopers to account for her subsequent victories. All this followed the virtually unchecked power he wielded immediately before and during the Emergency. A character forged in the crucibles of triumph and disaster acquired strength, resilience and an ability to manipulate people to serve his own ends. If he did not shine in Parliament, it was probably because with his inherent disdain for talkers, as opposed to doers, he also recognized that the legislative procedure had ceased to be of much relevance to the serious horse-trading of governance. Admission of the fact is not to endorse it; the point is made only to emphasize Sanjay Gandhi's understanding of the true levers of power.

Durbar Nominee

Those who believe in the supremacy of the conventional political system may nurture the hope that Rajiv Gandhi's more sedately respectable personality will find its proper fruition within the parliamentary framework, and that he will help to restore governance to its authentic channels. In doing so, he would follow the political examples set by Nehru as well as by Feroze Gandhi whose contributions to the integrity of the democratic process are not often remembered today. But so little is known of Mr Gandhi's beliefs, or of the nexus he sees between power and ideology, that it is impossible to hazard guesses. The system may have been eroded too far to permit restoration. In any case, it is extremely doubtful whether the Prime Minister--who can only have furthered her son's ambitions to suit her own purposes which must now be seen as fully shared by him--will allow major changes that might elevate form and propriety above the substance of power. Nor would Congress(I) politicians who are so desperately

flocking round the rising sun pay court for a moment if they had reason to suspect that there was the least doubt in Mrs Gandhi's mind that her son would not be utterly loyal to the values and tactics she has made respectable. Durbars exalt only those individuals who abide, and profit, by durbari rules.

Mr Gandhi can, therefore, safely be expected not to ruffle too many feathers, and to follow obediently in his mother's footsteps. Not yet being integrated in a power network, he might take decisions on considerations of general welfare, but they will be personal decisions all the same, the enlightenment of a man who exercises authority solely because of his birth and does so with discretion because he happens to be a rational human being. The Congress(I) and country would have applauded him just as enthusiastically if he had been arbitrary and tyrannical.

This is not criticism of Rajiv Gandhi. Being Jawaharlal Nehru's grandson and Indira Gandhi's son cannot be held against him. They should not be handicaps in his chosen career. But it says much for the bankruptcy of India's political life that this heritage--unsupported by any ability or experience that the nation knows of--should be regarded as sufficient qualification for the high destiny for which he has clearly been singled out. That abject surrender of the principle of democratic choice can only be justified if Mr Gandhi lives down--or lives up to--his birthright, and demonstrates that he also has the competence to win in fair contest.

CSO: 4220

GANDHI ADDRESSES INDIAN ENVOYS TO GULF AREA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 May 81 p 7

[Text] Dubai, May 13 (UNI)..

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi told Indian envoys to 10 Gulf countries that India had no designs of assuming the leadership role in the region, nor did it want to throw its weight about.

Mrs Gandhi said India's basic aim was to further strengthen its ties with the Gulf region and diversify and expand economic and technical cooperation.

Mrs Gandhi specially called the envoys meeting to impress upon them the need to project the true picture of India in the region in the context of the 'propaganda' by vested interests that India was very weak and impoverished.

The meeting began with each ambassador apprising the Prime Minister of the latest developments in their respective countries to accreditation. The ambassadors also acquainted her with the strategic situation in the region as they saw it.

External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao flew in here for the meeting from Baghdad at the end of the nonaligned peace mission to Iran and Iraq.

Mrs Gandhi stressed that there was enough scope for investment by Gulf countries in India. In this context it was necessary to project the tremendous strides made by India in the fields of agriculture, industry science and technology and medicine.

She said several Gulf countries with which India had very friendly relations were ready to participate in projects with India even in third countries. What they needed was more factual information about prospects of such cooperation.

She told the envoys they should try to promote further exchanges in specific areas.

Mrs Gandhi urged the envoys to explore all possibilities of supply of manpower--skilled and unskilled--to these countries and promote trade with them since India had a lot of commodities to give them.

Minister of State for Commerce, Khurshed Alam Khan and the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Romesh Bhandari also attended the meeting.

The Prime Minister, who was accorded a reception by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry here today, was told by its President Saif Ghurair that its members wished to increase trade with India, besides investing substantially in Indian Industry.

Addressing the chamber Mrs Gandhi expressed the hope that the official level talks currently underway between India and the UAE would result in mutually fruitful cooperation among the two countries.

CSO: 4220/7802

GULF WELCOME TO GANDHI SIGN OF HER POPULARITY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 81 p 9

[Article by M. Shamim]

[Text] As I said goodbye to the in-charge of the telex room in the Dubai Hilton Hotel, the man who had creeded my messages, an Arab, stood up and came to me. "Mrs. Gandhi and you, my brother, are most welcome to this country anytime," he said, and gave me one of his warmest smiles.

That, more or less, summed up the reaction of people, from the highest in the land to the man in the street, to the first official visit of an Indian Prime Minister to the UAE and a brief stop-over earlier in Oman for re-fuelling of the Indian Airlines chartered aircraft, en route to Geneva.

If the manner in which the government-owned media and privately-owned newspapers handled the visit of Mrs. Gandhi is any indication of the warmth with which she was received and the importance that was attached to her visit, the Indian Prime Minister was certainly more welcome than any other distinguished guest coming to this part of the world, almost in a procession.

Comparisons are odious, but neither Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, nor the French President, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, were given the tumultous [as published] welcome which Mrs. Gandhi received. The TV not merely pushed everything out but also extended its news bulletins to accommodate her hectic programme. Almost every paper, both English and Arabic, brought out huge, supplements. At least one of them said: "It is a Nehru century."

The Amir of Kuwait hosted a private lunch in Mrs. Gandhi's honour, at which only six people were invited--a rare gesture, which, indeed, was not extended to the other royal guests.

What Mrs. Gandhi said about world affairs or the situation in the sub-continent and even the communal tension in India was not new. But the fact that she was saying it in Arab countries was important.

Mrs. Gandhi did not mince words. For instance, during a press conference on her last day in Dubai, she was asked if the question of arms aid to Pakistan had cropped up in her talks with the Arab leaders. She replied: "It did not crop up. I stated my point of view."

That Mrs. Gandhi managed to delink the question of arms for Pakistan from the situation in the subcontinent and put it in the perspective on growing tensions in West Asia due to rivalry of Power blocs, was, itself, significant. There is now a better understanding of India's "genuine desire that Pakistan and Bangladesh should be strong." But India objects to Pakistan being used as a pawn for bringing to its doorsteps the intense rivalry between the super-powers.

On communal tensions, she did not hide the fact. But these, she said, were part of a global phenomenon and should be seen in the perspective of the rising violence in industrialised societies. The conflict between Muslims and non-Muslims was not different from conflicts between members of the same community.

Mrs. Gandhi also dispelled the misconception that India might be seeking to emerge as a leader in the Gulf region or the Indian Ocean, or that she was leaning towards one super-power or the other.

Mrs. Gandhi also made it clear that India's support to the Arab cause, unlike the "newly-found friends," was based on principles. It was not inspired by Arab prosperity, which has come in the wake of the oil boom. This is now understood better than ever before as Mrs. Gandhi did not allow her talks to be muddled by bilateral issues. She had nothing to sell, except "world peace."

But the hard fact remains that countries in the Gulf region are short of manpower and need managerial talent and technical know-how. They are also seeking to improve their health services.

In all these sectors, the countries in the Gulf region would have to depend on India increasingly. It is in this context that Mrs. Gandhi told the Indian ambassadors (who had gathered in Dubai) to generate more goodwill and improve the image of the country. Some vested interests dislike that the Arabs should look upon India as an industrialised country. Already, there is talk of India and the Arab countries jointly financing projects in the third-world nations.

The age-old ties between the Arabs and India was a constant theme of her speeches. She referred to the all-pervasive influence of Arab culture on the Indian way of life and discounted the theory that Islam was spread "with the help of the sword." But these ties she said, had to be updated and given a contemporary content.

She might just have made the most spectacular contribution to the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Indo-Arab relations.

CSO: 4220/7817

IMPORTANCE OF TALKS WITH PRC, PAKISTAN STRESSED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 May 81 p 8

[Article by Inder Malhotra]

[Text] More by coincidence than by design the coming month of June has become an important landmark in this country's quest for better relations with its two principal and frequently troublesome neighbours, Pakistan and China. The foreign minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, will go to Pakistan on June 8 for three or even four days so that he can have enough time not only to negotiate with his Pakistani opposite number, Mr Agha Shahi, at Islamabad but also to inspect the Indian consulate-general in Karachi which handles every month thousands of visa applications by Pakistanis anxious to travel to India. Towards the end of the month, on June 26, China's vice-premier and foreign minister, Mr Huang Hua, will arrive in New Delhi for what some have nicknamed in advance as a four-day "talkathon." No Chinese leader of comparable seniority has been to this country for 21 years since the late Mr Zhou Enlai's ill-starred visit in April 1960.

To take the two events in chronological order, it is manifest that the India-Pakistan negotiations at the foreign ministers' level--it goes without saying that Mr Narasimha Rao will also call on General Zia-ul-Haq--are taking place at a critical juncture. The massive arms deal between the U.S. and Pakistan, in the works for quite some time, is about to be clinched. Latest reports from both Islamabad and Washington indicate that whatever hesitations the Pakistanis might have had about the dollar 2,500-million package of military and economic assistance offered by the Reagan administration are about to be shed. It is no longer a secret that the preponderant portion of the package, to be spread over five years, consists of military hardware worth two billion dollars; only dollar 500 million are being earmarked for economic aid.

Earnest Attempt

Pakistan is seeking, apart from other varieties of modern tanks, the American M-60's and TAMS, which are but a simplified version of the West German Leopard, being produced under licence in Argentina. It is also anxious to acquire sophisticated missiles, armoured personnel carriers and the latest radar and early-warning system. As for warplanes an interesting development has taken place. The U.S. had earlier offered, and Pakistan was initially inclined to accept, the F-16 aircraft, but, on Mr Agha Shahi's own admission, the Pakistanis are now insisting on getting the even more lethal F-15.

In spite of all this Mrs Gandhi's government considers it worth its while to make an earnest attempt to bring about a meeting of minds with the rulers of Pakistan so that the sub-continent can be saved from being sucked into the vortex of superpower confrontation which is bound to happen if the kind of security relationship that is being discussed between Washington and Islamabad comes to be established. Indeed, in order not to delay his talks with Pakistani leaders, Mr Narasimha Rao has taken the unusual step of rescheduling a previously fixed visit to Bhutan, of course, with Thimpu's consent.

The framework of the foreign minister's mission to Pakistan could not have been made clearer than Mrs Gandhi has done in an elaborate interview to a well-known Pakistani journalist, Mr M. B. Naqvi. There are three important strands in Indian policy, as outlined by the Prime Minister.

First, there should be no doubt about this country's stake in a strong and stable Pakistan or about Indian goodwill towards it which any visiting Pakistani can verify for himself.

Secondly, India is not and cannot be unmindful of Pakistan's legitimate security concerns. In this connection, Mrs Gandhi devoted a lot of time to demolishing the sedulously fostered myth that India wants to keep Pakistan weak by protesting against, and trying to block, all its attempt to acquire arms. This country has not objected and will not object to normal Pakistani arms purchases from any source. Was there any outcry against the acquisition of three squadrons of Mirages from France or against other five which are on order? [as published]

The present Indian concern is over not only the quantum of sophisticated weaponry that is sought to be pumped into Pakistan by the U.S. but also the context in which this is being done. It is not a bilateral arrangement but a part of the U.S. grand design to make Pakistan a "frontline bastion" of its global confrontation with the Soviet Union, thus making the region a cockpit of superpower rivalry with all its dangerous consequences.

Rhetoric

This is what is unacceptable to India though it is also difficult to forget the bitter lesson of history that armaments acquired by Pakistan on whatever pretext have eventually been used against this country.

It is worth noting that despite their heated rhetoric about the "grave threat" to Pakistan's security because of the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, Gen. Zia and Mr Agha Shahi have been remarkably respectful of Russian sensitivities. They are baulking at the U.S. demand that Pakistan should serve as a conduit for portable missiles to the Afghan rebels. On the other hand, not only is the Soviet-aided steel mill in Pakistan coming up fast but Moscow has also offered Islamabad a nuclear reactor.

Were this all, things would have been bad enough, though, to use Mrs Gandhi's words, India can cope with even a heavily armed Pakistan. The trouble is that to the conventional military acquisitions of Pakistan, now under discussion,

must be added Pakistan's clandestine but continuing effort to build the nuclear bomb in which the U.S. proposes openly to acquiesce by waiving the Symington amendment.

It is from all this that Mrs Gandhi's third and most important statement to Mr Naqvi follows. It is that good and friendly relations between India and Pakistan can develop only if there is a return to the long-neglected Simla approach of strict bilateralism and not if Pakistan becomes an American outpost in the Reagan administration's anti-Soviet crusade and persists in its plans to go nuclear.

To some extent Mr Narasimha Rao's talks with the Chinese foreign minister in New Delhi will be interconnected with his earlier negotiations with Mr Agha Shahi in Islamabad. This is because China's attitude towards Pakistan, especially towards Indo-Pakistan differences or disputes, is not immaterial to the future pace of improvement in India-China relations.

Since Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit to Beijing had been vitiated by China's invasion of Vietnam during it, Mr Huang Hua's talks with the Indian leaders in New Delhi will provide the first real opportunity to probe in depth the Chinese position on some of the issues of profound concern to this country. Without a reasonable understanding on these, it will be unrealistic to expect a break-through in Sino-Indian relations.

This country does not expect or even want China to give up its friendship with Pakistan. But this does not mean that New Delhi can welcome Beijing's repeated endorsement of Gen Zia's stand that the Kashmir issue be settled in accordance with the Simla agreement and the relevant U.N. resolutions. The Chinese leaders are astute enough to know that the Simla accord and the U.N. resolution are mutually contradictory, not complementary.

Essential

Even more important is the need for a clarification of the Chinese position on Sikkim. During his otherwise positive remarks to the Janata MP, Dr Subramaniam Swamy recently, Mr Deng Xiaoping repeatedly talked of "annexation" of Sikkim and said that China could not accept such "annexation." He did add that his country would not make an "issue" of Sikkim. But this is not satisfactory from India's point of view. Other issues on which a broad understanding is essential before India-China friendship can make headway include this country's special relationship with Bhutan and security interests south of the Himalayan crest in general.

Above all there is the border question. It seems that the Chinese have not yet realised how deeply they have wounded the Indian sentiment over this issue by their invasion of this country in 1962. Or else, Mr Deng would not have offered on a "take it, or leave it" basis the same package deal that Mr Zhou Enlai had in April 1960. Nor is the idea of putting the border question in cold storage much help.

There are three distinct sectors of the border and three different working groups can perhaps be asked to tackle them separately. Wherever agreement is easy, it can be formalised while the discussions on other sectors can continue. Alternatively, the two governments at the highest level can first settle the principles according to which the border is to be demarcated.

However, all these are issues which can be discussed with Mr Huang Hua in a spirit of goodwill that has of late been happily in evidence in most contacts between the two countries. However it is necessary to add that the Chinese foreign minister's visit is a significant but small step in the essentially slow process of improving India-China relations. To look for spectacular results would be an invitation to disappointment.

CSO: 4220

KERALA CONGRESS-U GROUP MEETS, REELECTS PRESIDENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 May 81 p 13

[Text] Trivandrum, May 18.

The KPCC(U) re-elected Mr. A. K. Antony president at Cochin today, slamming the door against the merger of the Urs party's Kerala unit with the Congress(I). Since the last Congress split, Mr. Antony has been an avowed champion of his party's political indispensability for the country. He would use his renowned term to counter any merger move.

The Congress (U)'s association in power in Kerala is the deciding factor for its independent existence. It is in alliance with the CPM and others in the coalition. But within this party, there are two lobbies--one an anti-Marxist and the other advocating the party's continuance in power. Mr. Antony had to keep these two lobbies under his political influence. The anti-Marxist lobby is not necessarily in favour of merger. But, between the CPM and the Congress (I), it would prefer the latter.

The group favouring the party's continued stay in the coalition is definitely against the Congress (I). But, if Mr. Antony is forced by political circumstances to take his party out of the Marxit-led [as published] coalition, the leaders of this group could be expected to switch their loyalty to the next possible power source, including the Congress (I).

The Youth Congress (U), which is the main source of support for Mr. Antony, is also against the merger move. Yet, it has very often called for the withdrawal of the Congress (U) from his ruling front.

Mr. Antony himself is no great admirer of the CPM. He believes that the Marxit [as published] party's influence in the state is waning. He, however, knows that if he pulls his party out of the ruling front at this juncture, his ranks would desert him to join the Congress (I) which is the alternative source of power. To that extent, the Congress (U)'s continuance in the coalition would be a preventive step for Mr. Antony so that he would not have to preside over the liquidation of his party in Kerala.

Thus, the Congress (U)'s political survival in the state is now conditional upon its association in power. The party's West Bengal line of opposition to the

CPM is pointed out by some of the Congress (U) leaders here as an example which should not be followed in Kerala. According to them, the party may not survive for long in West Bengal as the Congress (I) can take away most of its support.

Though there are a few young members, who would prefer to cross over to the Congress (I), they are unlikely to do so immediately. Mr. Y. B. Chavan may not find immediate response to his merger move in Kerala.

But, Mr. Antony will from now on be under mounting pressure to adopt a more positive anti-Marxist line within the ruling front from two sources--one, the Youth Congress, which is anti-Marxist without being pro-Congress (I)--and the other, the potential Congress (I) followers who are anti-Marxist as well.

CSO: 4220/7821

PRESS REPORTS MALHOTRA'S ACTIVITIES IN SRINAGAR

Srinagar Press Conference

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 May 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Srinagar, May 13 (PTI). The chief martial law administrator, General Zia-ul-Haq, has sent a message to the chief of the army staff, General O. P. Malhotra, saying that his country had no intention of going to war with India.

Disclosing this here today at a press conference, the general said he had sent a reply to Gen Zia assuring him that India had no such plan.

The verbal message from Gen. Haq had been conveyed recently through a "friend" who had visited Pakistan.

These assurances notwithstanding, Gen. Malhotra did not rule out the possibility of an armed conflict with Pakistan in view of heavy arms buildup across the border.

"We have to take serious note of the new and sophisticated weapons pouring into Pakistan and remain alert to ward off any threat to the borders of the country," he said.

/He disclosed that of the 20 divisions of Pakistan, a total of 18 have been deployed against India./ [in boldface]

"We have to take note of this changed scenario and plan accordingly," he said.

Malhotra said that India had a total strength of 29 divisions. A minimum of 10 to 12 divisions of this strength were needed to man the long and difficult border from the north of Ladakh to the Tirup division in the northeast to face China.

That leaves this country with 17 divisions to face Pakistan, he said.

The army chief did not agree with a reporter when he suggested that Pakistan had "additional commitments," that is, to face Russians in Afghanistan.

The army chief said that he did not think that Russians would cross into Pakistan from Afghanistan. Gen Haq has also said the same thing. If Pakistan has to face the Russians, "they just cannot do it," he asserted.

"One could therefore conclude that the increased Pakistan build-up is directed against us," he said.

Our Gandhinagar staff correspondent adds: The threat of Pakistani aggression on India is real in view of the military movement observed near the Kutch border recently.

The Gujarat chief minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, told newsmen here today that hectic military movement was seen recently at Pakistans Bedin air base which is only a few km away from the Kutch border.

He said the government had also reports that the Pakistan government had already asked ex-armymen to be on alert as they might be required to be summoned any moment.

The chief minister said the Centre and the state government were keeping a close watch on the activities on the Pakistan side near the Kutch border. The state police and the Border Security Force had intensified their vigil on the border areas, he added.

More Details Given

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 May 81 p 1

[Text] Srinagar, May 13--General Zia-ul-Haq has sent a message to the Chief of the Army Staff, General O. P. Malhotra, saying that Pakistan had no intention of going to war with India, report PTI and UNI.

The general told a Press conference here today that he had sent a reply to General Zia assuring him that India too had no such plan.

He said the construction of the Karakoram Road did not give an "additional advantage" to Pakistan in terms of logistic support.

It was a "mistake" on the part of Pakistan to have joined the Chinese in the construction of this road, which posed a "serious danger" to Pakistan itself.

He said it would take Pakistan at least one year before it was able to explode a nuclear device.

General Malhotra denied that some senior Army officers had tried to stage a "coup" against the Government headed by Mrs Gandhi. He described the reports as "fantastic, ridiculous and baseless."

Strict vigil was being maintained along the Indo-Pak border by the Gujarat Government and the BSF following reported military exercises at Bedin air base in Pakistan near Kutch.

Mr Madhavsinh Solanki Gujarat Chief Minister said at Gandhinagar that reports had been received that Pakistan had been carrying out military exercises at the air base.

He, however, said latest information indicated that no major military movement had been reported during the past few days.

Speech at Parade

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 May 81 p 7

[Text] Srinagar, May 12--The Chief of Army Staff, Gen. O. P. Malhotra, today called upon officers and jawans of the Army to be prepared to face any eventuality in view of the increased arms build-up in the neighbourhood.

Addressing a farewell parade here, he said, Pakistan had stepped up its armed strength by 60 per cent, since 1972 after the signing of the Simla agreement. India would have to match this build-up, and augment its strength to ward off any threat to the country's borders.

During the last nine years Pakistan had raised eight new Army divisions and four new corps headquarters, raising their total strength to 20 divisions and seven corps headquarters. Another corps headquarters was also being raised.

In the wake of the developments in Afghanistan, he said, Pakistan had acquired new arms from the U.S. and China. The Reagan Administration was giving fresh arms aid to that country.

"It is our duty to overcome our weaknesses and keep ourselves in readiness to give a fitting answer to our adversaries in view of ominous developments in our neighbourhood," the General said.

India had taken measures to step up the modernisation programme for the Army and equip it with latest and effective weapons.

A five-year plan for modernisation of the Army was under implementation.

The new equipment given to the Army included T-72 tanks, among the world's best, new long-range guns and anti-aircraft weapons.

Attention was also being given towards increasing the mobility of the Army with the supply of new vehicles, which would assist in tank warfare.

He felt confident that if ever the country's borders were threatened by any adversary, the Indian Army would rise to the occasion and defeat the enemy as it did in the 1965 and 1971 armed conflicts.

Gen. Malhotra said the Army would start a tree plantation drive in high altitude and remote mountain areas.--PTI

CSO: 4220

PUNJAB CPI STATE COUNCIL ISSUES PRESS RELEASE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 May 81 p 4

[Text] Chandigarh, May 13.

Punjab CPI will work for closer relations with the CPM and other Left and democratic forces to fight for the interests of workers, peasants khet mazdoors and all other toiling sections, against all encroachments and attacks on democracy and against divisive and separatist forces.

It will also work for more powers and financial resources for the State, for implementation of the agreement between United Front and the State Government. Besides, it will oppose the anti-reservation and anti-Harijan campaigns and seek to unite Harijans and non-Harijans, all democratic forces to defend reservation for Scheduled Castes and also to demand suitable concessions and facilities for other really socially backward and economically weaker sections and to struggle for such democratic reforms that alone can help resolve problems of backwardness and unemployment.

In a press release here today the State Council has expressed serious concern over the negative trends and developments in the State politics as contrasted with the healthy situation that prevailed when the United Movement for popular demands occupied the centre of the political stage. The united mass struggles forced the State Government to retreat, the kisans won big gains, the forces of disruption were held in check. The picture began changing with the disruptive forces stepping up their activities with the demand for 'Khalistan' and associate membership status in UNO for Sikhs on one hand and demand of Punjabi as mother tongue of Hindu Punjabis and cry of 'Hindu Sangahan' on the other.

The continued failure of the State Government on the prices and wages fronts and its failure to implement the terms of agreement with the representatives of united action front has fed the discontent and brought grist to the mill of the forces of disruption. The rising prices and inflation the continuous erosion of the earnings of the wage and salary earnests the rise in the cost of production of agricultural produce, the increasing burdens on the masses the failure to protect small scale industries and the continuing power crisis alongwith fast growing of corruption nepotism and maladministration at all levels have added in a big way to mass sufferings and discontent. The chauvinist and extremists among the Akalis and the BJP (some times abetted by Congress-I) sections also have intensified their activities to exploit the situation, divide the people on communal lines and whip up communalism and chauvinism.

In this situation the slogan 'Sikhs not a nation' revived by the Akali leadership and the activities of the extremists of Dal Khalsa and Sikh Students Federation are causing serious concern to all those who want Hindu-Sikh-Muslim unity and national integration.

Both the anti-people and anti-democraic [as published] policies of the Government and those activities of the divisive and separatist forces cause special concern as Punjab is a border State and the Pakistani militarists aided by the US imperialists and the Maoists are stepping up their offensive against the people of Pakistan one hand and against our security on the other.

The State CPI Council has given the call for a mass collection drive for the party organisation and Nawan Zamana by mass collections by all party cadres and units. It has appealed to party ranks to strengthen the party and its links with the masses and its cohesion and discipline.

CSO: 4220/7802

DELHI SAID TO DECIDE AGAINST JAGUAR MANUFACTURE

Agreement, Plans Told

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 May 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, May 15.

The Government has finally made up its mind to dispense with the manufacturing part of the Jaguar programme, while adhering to the rest of the deal for the purchase of a certain number of aircraft in fly-away condition and others in sub-sections for assembly in Bangalore.

The agreement provided for the acquisition of 40 fully assembled aircraft flown from Britain and another 45 in a semi-assembled condition. A sliding scale of royalties was fixed for the progressive manufacture of 60 more planes under licence with British technical assistance.

British Aerospace which manufactures these planes in collaboration with France agreed to supply two squadrons on lease from the Royal Air Force, until the aircraft ordered by India were built to its specifications and delivered in due course.

The modified Jaguars fitted with more powerful engines and advanced avionics and weapon systems cost roughly Rs. 12 crores each as against the earlier version prices around Rs. 7 crores.

The new Jaguars have started arriving at the rate of two a month, while steps are being taken simultaneously to bring in the sub-sections for assembling in Bangalore. The Government wants the programme to get into full stride before the delivery is completed of the aircraft fully built in Britain.

The deal contains penalty provisions if India decides to go back on the manufacturing part of the agreement. The commitment to purchase 40 aircraft in fully assembled and 45 in semi-assembled condition is binding on India, but it can get out of the manufacturing part by paying a token penalty amounting to not more than a few crores of rupees if British Aerospace insisted on invoking this condition.

Not Versatile Enough

The IAF experts who chose the Jaguar are satisfied with its performance. But the Government feels that this is basically a single role aircraft which is not versatile enough to be used as bomber and fighter like the American F-16 or the French Mirage-2000 still in the final stages of development. It is an expensive aircraft which will reach the outer limits of its technology in another few years, although it will remain in operational service for a longer time.

In opting for a next generation aircraft capable of performing the dual roles of a deep penetrating bomber and also a high performance fighter under modern war conditions, the Government has come to the conclusion that the country's interests would be better served by buying some more Jaguars to give the IAF the necessary strike capability, before a more advanced and versatile aircraft like Mirage-2000 is built in India with French collaboration.

So it has more or less decided to step up the assembly programme for acquiring altogether 116 Jaguars which will be organised into four squadrons with the requisite reserves. The purchase of an additional 31 planes will more than compensate the British Aerospace for the abandonment of the manufacturing programme.

The Government might also go in for more MIG-23 aircraft to fill the gap before the Mirage-2000s are manufactured in due course. The Mirage deal was due to be concluded in June or July, but the change of Government in France might delay the finalisation of the remaining details relating mainly to the financing of the project.

If the U.S. decides to sell the F-16 to Pakistan, then India might acquire more MIG-23s to back up the four Jaguar squadrons. They can be easily built in India by utilising the existing facilities for manufacturing the MIG-21s which have been modified and updated to serve as front-line interceptor and attack aircraft.

As part of the increasing emphasis on self-reliance, the Government is keen that HAL should develop the capability for making some of the sophisticated components and ancillaries required for keeping the 116 Jaguars in full flying condition.

The intention is to manufacture essential spares required in bulk supply, while importing others that cannot be made economically in India because of the limited requirement.

Report Denied

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 May 81 p 12

[Text] Bangalore, May 16.

The first HAL-assembled Jaguar supersonic strike aircraft was expected to roll out of the factory during the middle of next year as per schedule dispelling doubts expressed in a section of the press that centre had given up the project.

A HAL spokesman told PTI "there is no question of dropping it, we are certainly going to manufacture it and the people are already working on it."

He, however, added that the project, [illegible] full scope which was to run for several years, was under the "review" of the Government.--PTI.

CSO: 4220/7801

DELHI SEES FACTORS BEHIND BANGLADESH BOAT INCIDENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 17.

Official circles here are convinced that Dacca's provocation in the Bay of Bengal by sending their gunboats to the New Moore island was dictated by the internal political compulsions of the ruling party in Bangladesh.

In fact, no attempt had been made by the Dacca authorities to conceal the fact that the drama had been staged in the Bay to coincide with the return of Sheikh Hasina Wazed, newly-elected president of the Awami League, to Bangladesh after a six-year exile in India.

The Bay drama and a campaign launched by the Dacca media against Mrs. Hasina and the government of India had been rather crudely synchronised. For the last five days, the Dacca press and particularly the government-owned BANGLADESH TIMES had been carrying stories charging Indian assistance to the Awami League.

Change in Attitude

At about the same time, the two Bangladesh naval gunships appeared in the vicinity of the New Moore island where Indian officials were carrying out a survey. In the first two days, the men on the Bangladesh vessels had been sending friendly greetings to the Indian staff. It was only on the third day that the gunships started approaching menacingly towards the island with their guns trained.

When the incident was brought to the notice of the Dacca authorities, they flatly denied knowledge of the presence of their gunships in the vicinity of the island.

When details of the incident were sent to the Dacca, there was no reply. In fact, Dacca continued to maintain its posture of ignorance until it became known in New Delhi on Saturday that the Bangladesh government was about to issue a statement of the incident to the press.

Interestingly, the Bangladesh government had decided to issue the statement on the eve of Mrs. Hasina's arrival in Dacca and the object obviously was that, with the Bangladesh government's version of the incident splashed in the morning papers, the ovation Mrs. Hasina was expected to receive at Dacca, should be somewhat neutralised.

The strategy was obviously well planned. Two leading government-owned newspapers of Dacca had taken the unprecedented step of sending their special correspondents to Delhi a week in advance as part of their plan to build up a campaign against Mrs. Hasina.

The BANGLADESH TIMES, in its issue of May 14, carried a despatch from its special correspondent quoting "some political circles" in Delhi as saying that the Indian ruling party was trying to "instal [as published] a stooge (meaning Mrs. Hasina) in Dacca."

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER reported that Mrs. Hasina had "parried questions" from its special correspondent about Talpatti (New Moore island) and Farakka saying that she would give her observations on these issues on her return to Dacca.

At the same time, some Dacca newspapers published "commemorative" stories on the abortive "Farakka march" by Maulana Bhashani in 1976.

The normal news reporting by the Indian press on the election of Mrs. Hasina as president of the Awami League, was sought to be interpreted by the correspondents as a build-up for Mrs. Hasina with ulterior objectives, ignoring the fact that after the initial coverage, nothing substantial had been published in India on the Awami League president's activities.

In fact, Mrs. Hasina has been maintaining silence on all Bangladesh issues. She issued only one statement before her departure, indicating her political objectives in Bangladesh, but that was quite obviously addressed to her people in her own country.

CSO: 4220/7817

BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER TELLS PRESS OF LEFT CAMPAIGN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 May 81 p 5

[Text] May 18.

The left front in West Bengal has begun a campaign to preserve democracy and would like all to come together for the purpose, Mr. Jyoti Basu, Marxist chief minister of West Bengal, told newsmen here today.

Participating in a "met-the-press" programme of the Bombay Union of Journalists, Mr. Basu added that people disagreed with them (left front parties) on many fundamental points, but yet they could join them to "preserve whatever democracy we have and extend those democratic rights."

The CPM and other members of the left front had decided that the time had come to place before the people of the country facts about what was happening in West Bengal and the Centre's role in that, Mr. Basu said.

Campaign Launched

For this, the front has started a campaign and he had already visited Tamil Nadu and Kerala and he would visit Delhi. Here, he addressed a public meeting, besides meeting the press.

The ruling party at the Centre did not believe in democratic rule and it had given proof of this, he alleged.

There was lawlessness and violence and disorder perpetrated by the Congress (I), encouraged by the leadership at the Centre, Mr. Basu alleged. "Mrs. Gandhi does not pull back her people taken to this path."

There was talk of "confrontation" between the Centre and the state, though the left front would like competition among the state governments and between them and the Centre.

The front was disturbed over the "confrontation" issue, he said, adding that it would be undemocratic to dismiss an elected government before its time.

An attack on any state government was an attack on democracy everywhere. Since there were certain bad signs, particularly from the time when Mrs. Gandhi came to power, it was better for the opposition parties to be prepared, the Marxist leader said.

Asked whether the left front would welcome co-operation with the Bharatiya Janata Party, he pointed out that the latter had declared that it would not stand intervention by the Centre and so it was welcome.

In reply to a question, Mr. Basu said the Congress(U) in his state was always inimical to the left front. It did not command much influence, either.

About the possible dismissal of his government by the Centre, he said: "No one is panicky. It is not easy to throw out a government like ours in West Bengal." If that happened, the fight for democracy would be carried out on a different level.

Closer Links

The left front government, which completes four years in office on June 21, had tried to implement the minimum programme in various spheres and had forged closer links with the people.

Nearly 850,000 employees, including policemen, had benefitted from the recent implementation of the pay commission award. A closer link had also been forged with the peasantry.

On the other hand, many projects had been delayed because of delay in the Centre granting licences--partly due to inefficiency and partly for political reasons. The Centre did not also take over sick units.

Asked whether there could be leftist unity at the all-India level, Mr. Basu said there were various issues on which there could be a consensus before political unity could be achieved.

PTI adds: Mr. Basu said that he was opposed to the setting up of a joint negotiating committee on the new Moore island in the Bay of Bengal, as suggested by Bangladesh.

He said that he had no doubt that the island belonged to India and there was no question of any negotiation.

As regards press reports about the appointment of police chiefs in states by the Centre, Mr. Basu said he had read about it only in the newspapers. "If it is true, this is a typical example of authoritarianism since police is a state subject," he said.

Mr. Basu also defended his government's decision to drop the English language up to the fifth standard. He said this was nothing new as most of the state governments had done so. Moreover, there had been recommendations by several committees to this effect.

Mr. Basu said the chief election commissioner had done great harm by postponing the by-elections twice. He said this had never been done earlier.

CSO: 4220/7821

LEADERS SPEAK AT NATIONAL INTEGRATION COUNCIL MEET

Madras THE HINDU in English 15, 16, 18 May 81

[Article by K. K. Katyal]

[15 May 81 p 8]

[Text] What is wrong with us? Why do communal riots continue despite assurances by responsible persons in the Government and outside of earnest efforts to maintain and promote amity? Why is the elaborate talk of remedial measures followed by disproportionately meagre results?

These questions were examined closely by the revived National Integration Council, at its first meeting in November last year. The ideas thrown up there covered a wide range.

Reference was made to communal politics, to the laxity of the administrative machinery, to the sporadic nature of action on the past decisions, to tensions caused by uneven development resulting in regional and inter-class tensions and to the unbalanced composition of the law enforcement set-up.

The debate remains unfinished, primarily because there is no let-up in communal violence: The ideas mooted in the National Integration Council and similar other forums will inevitably be pursued in the future rounds of discussion that would be necessary to evolve an effective strategy.

Reproduced below are the arguments and observations of some of the participants in the Council's discussions, culled out from the verbatim records, just available.

The remedy:

More education, more opportunities

Mrs. Gandhi

OUR concern is what kind of India shall we bequeath to future generations—a strong, harmonious, self-confident India or a feuding, weak, schizophrenic India? We talk of national integration. It is not a mere phrase but an awareness of the burden and task that history has placed on our shoulders. I have no doubt that all of us, whatever our party or political creed, hold the freedom and integrity of our country as supreme and dear above all else. But freedom and unity cannot be taken for granted. Eternal vigilance is the price of our integrity, as it is of all liberties.

We are living today in an era of particular turmoil. This takes all kinds of different forms in different parts of the world. There are wars, there are internal upheavals, there are political and spiritual disquiet and dissatisfaction.

It is also an age of the use of political interference as a substitute for open warfare. Forces are at work in the world which are exploiting and will exploit any weakness on our part, especially at a moment like this.

Outside interference

In many countries, divisive groups receive support from outside agencies and sources. I am often asked to name the foreign interests who are interfering. It is not always possible to lay your finger on such groups or individuals. It is extremely difficult here or elsewhere. But time and again, years later evidence has come up which has shown what kind of interference, or attempt at interference there has been.

I am not suggesting for one moment that out communal or caste troubles and linguistic movements are being instigated by outsiders. Neither I nor the Home Minister have blamed outside forces for the Moradabad, Aligarh and other incidents—although some papers and groups keep repeating that I have said so. But I have no doubt that any civil disturbance will weaken India and there will be groups who will take advantage of such weaknesses and such differences for their own purposes.

Most riots are provoked by a handful of persons, or perhaps by a single person. But because of the atmosphere of distrust and prejudice prevailing, or because of the persistence of narrow loyalties of caste, of religion, of language, personal quarrels soon get transformed into group clashes and assume a communal colour. This is what happened in Moradabad.

Riots are lethal

Whether it be Moradabad or Tripura, events moved at a fast tempo. Riots are becoming more brutal and lethal. We should, of course, diagnose the causes. But long exercises and analyses are not always very helpful. Reports of inquiry commissions come so long after the events that they have no utility except in the sense that every one is supposed to learn from history.

In medicine many cures have been found before the causes have been established. But here we know the causes as well as the cure. It is because it takes time—sometimes decades—to overcome prejudice and because of the spirit of revenge that such outbursts persist.

All in all, the manner in which religions have flourished in India is a remarkable story of tolerance, co-existence and fusion. At the same time, we have been guilty of tolerating and perpetuating unjust social [illegible]cation. The old evil of untouchability [illegible]rious crime. The peaceful revolution [illegible] by Mahatma Gandhi has helped our [illegible]ety to change.

New lease to caste

We had thought that with education, economic development and full democracy, we could emerge into a new era of equality. But education and economic development have sharpened the competition for jobs. Adult franchise has given a new lease to caste.

Because we are still half way through this, the minorities and the weaker sections of society feel that they are not fully in the mainstream of national life. They feel that the benefits of economic development, of employment opportunities and the sharing of political power have bypassed them. As awakening increases and young people from these communities demand a larger share in economic advancement and full power, there may be more tensions.

But I feel that it is a passing phase. The remedy is greater development, more education, more opportunities. We are at a stage when the tensions and inequalities dominate our minds. It is also unfortunate that the impartiality of the very forces which should ensure social harmony and justice and equality is questioned. So far our major emphasis in tackling social violence has been on the law and order angle. However, I think that we should correct this approach and give due weight to other aspects like educational policy, employment opportunities, better understanding of our cultural traditions, and so on.

Temporary gain

No true religion can conceivably teach hatred of other religions but we have had communal organisations which have persistently given a distorted picture. It is an unfortunate fact of life that these organisations are thriving in many parts of our country. We cannot be helpless spectators, but should try vigorously to counteract the influences of such organisations by all political, legal and administrative means that are available to us.

A party may gain when riots occur by blaming the Government, but such a gain is bound to be temporary. It is the people who are the sufferers and no party can make a long-standing gain out of the people's misery.

When the Council met in Srinagar in 1968 it was forcibly brought out that the term 'minority' should not be regarded as meaning only Muslims, for in Kashmir Muslims are the majority. In some places, Christians are the majority. In fact, one of the special characteristics of our country is that no caste or group is in a position to dominate over the whole country. Let us convert the fact into a national advantage to ensure that there is a real and growing relationship of brotherhood and mutual responsibility based on trust.

'Sons of the soil' pernicious theory

Jyoti Basu

I WELCOME the reactivation of the National Integration Council. Its first meeting is being held today. I do hope that the Council will not share the fate of the two earlier National Integration Councils, formed in 1961 and 1968 respectively.

It cannot be denied that the policies pursued by the ruling classes of India for the last three decades are responsible for the creation and perpetuation of conditions in which communal and parochial forces thrive and work to endanger the unity of India and the democratic values we cherish.

The religious and linguistic minorities have to be given particular attention. It is unfortunate that those at the helm of affairs have failed in this respect. The uneven development of different regions in India socially, economically and culturally has given rise to emotions which are not conducive to the integration we want to achieve.

Unity in diversity

We have to accept that unity of India can only be unity in diversity. Such unity can only be the result of conscious and voluntary efforts of diverse groups which must be allowed to develop and flourish in their own ways. Diversities which we find in our country can be a source of strength and pride and not a cause of worry and shame.

Apart from the failure to handle our diversities correctly, another factor impeding national integration has been the failure to observe strictly the norms of secularism in politics. Although secularism is preached officially, most of the political leaders belonging to the various parties have failed to make it a way of their political life and that at every stage they mix politics and religion.

Religious practices invade even political functions. These politicians in their words and deeds encourage and propagate religious faith and religious practices without taking care to draw a line of distinction between what they say and do as individuals and what they say and do in their official capacities.

Even the State-owned mass media constantly propagate this or that religious faith and give expression to obscurantist ideas. Strict adherence to secular principles of complete separation of religion and State has to be observed if communalism is to be confronted.

The evil consequences of mixing religion and State are seen in the attitude of several members of the administrative and police personnel who at times of communal riots join the attacks on the minority communities.

The role played by the PAC in the Moradabad riots and the police in several other incidents has come in for severe criticism. A serious and continuous effort should be made to mould the administrative and police personnel along secular and non-parochial lines.

Parochial trends

Another factor impeding national integration has been the encouragement given to the rabidly parochial theory of providing jobs for 'sons of the soil'. It is unfortunate that many politicians of the ruling as well as the Opposition parties have fallen victim to the allurement to cash in on this apparently popular theory to win the ears of the local people.

It is time that all serious-minded politicians interested in national integration reflect on the dangers of the 'sons of the soil' theory which rouses parochial sentiments. I would also request all the Chief Ministers assembled here to consider what they can do in their own States to fight back the growing trend of localism.

It is sad, indeed, that instead of taking courage in both hands to fight this pernicious theory some senior politicians including Chief Ministers have been lending support to it. All the national and regional political parties have to unite and refuse to take advantage of the very limited and very short-term political dividends that may be derived from theories of localism.

A continuous effort must be made to unite people speaking various languages in particular States and to remind ourselves that we are citizens of India.

More powers for States

We have consistently demanded the application of the democratic principles of more powers for the States and in compact areas where tribals and certain other ethnic-linguistic minorities are numerically large, the formation of autonomous councils.

It is regrettable that far from conceding the democratic demand for greater powers for the States and the formation of the autonomous councils, the Union Government is moving in the direction of centralisation of all powers.

The demand to perpetuate the use of English or to replace English by Hindi as the official language on an all India basis would only inflame regional passions as they did earlier.

Complete equality of all Indian languages and the freedom to use one's own mother tongue for official and educational purposes are the basis on which

the language question can be solved. Far from doing this however, any move to impose Hindi on the non-Hindi speaking peoples, such as the activities of the Hindi Department of the Union Government would create a sense of revulsion among the non-Hindi speaking peoples, and delay the voluntary acceptance of Hindi by them.

Deep social causes

Y. B. Chavan

THIS question of national integration is a continuous process. It is necessary to have a national forum which will also be continuous.

We become aware of national integration when there are incidents of disturbances or dangers or challenges to national unity. The problems are manifold. It is not only a communal problem, it is again a caste problem, a regional problem, it is again unemployment of young educated people.

It has got many aspects. When you want to identify the causes which impede the process of national integration, one will have to be vigilant and vigilant till eternity—continuously because the problem of national integration is not going to disappear only after a couple of years, a couple of conferences.

Wherever there are talks of social or economic exploitation, it takes the form of a violent expression, and when it takes the form of a violent expression, we have this challenge to national integration. Therefore it is necessary to have continuous functioning to take note of it.

The regional aspect of the national integration problem requires careful consideration. If we apply our minds carefully to these problems and patiently try to deal with them, we will certainly get good results.

My colleagues who are present in the Council would forgive me—representatives of the DMK in Tamil Nadu. When we met in 1961 and 1962, there was the problem of a tendency of secession and on the sub-committee on regionalism, we came to some conclusions which were shared by C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar. Now, 20 years, they have become a part of the national mainstream as far as the national integration problem is concerned.

Implementation machinery

Sometimes the problems which keep threatening can be solved with proper handling and understanding and by trying to make them a part of the national stream of life.

What is important as far as this National Integration Council is concerned is the implementation machinery and the implementation process of whatever decisions that we take here. That is much more important because, we go and make some sort of general speeches and make some suggestions. But what is the method and machinery for the implementation of those things at the national level? This is, really speaking, an important thing.

Here, the Chief Ministers speak for their States and they can take responsibility for what they can do in their States. That is quite all right. But that is not enough. I think, some sort of a machinery will have to be worked out and it must be asked to continuously watch and guide the developing situation in all the things.

The major challenges to national integration come from two or three factors. One is the religious functioning or the religious politics. I do not want to blame or identify any political party but there is something like communal politics functioning invisibly, visibly, directly and indirectly in the country. Secondly, there is the imbalance in the regional development.

Educated unemployment

Another problem of economic development is unemployment among the new generation which is educated. It may not be highly educated, it may be semi-educated. But the problem of national commitment that we witnessed during the freedom struggle and immediately thereafter, is not seen.

I am speaking of emotional commitment to India. Why is it so? It is because when a young person having all the advantages of the freedom and being an educated person feels that he is being forgotten, he says, well, if he is forgotten, how can he have any emotional commitment. So, this regional imbalance and employment possibilities for the younger generation must be taken care of.

Social exploitation

Then there are areas of social exploitation. What happened in Orissa? One particular caste or community was selected to be driven out. This is another challenge to national integration. We will have to find out why it happened instead of blaming anybody for it. It may happen in another State tomorrow. So these socio-economic pockets and issues should be taken proper note of.

Many commissions have gone into the individual genesis of these communal disturbances. They have come out with detailed reports. Some say that these happened because of some personalities, while others say that they happened because a procession went in a wrong way and so on. These things do not start with individual incidents. There is always something happening before that.

There are some deep social causes which are being talked about, for which preparations are being made, because, nowadays, we do not find that these communal disturbances are unorganised. They seem to be well organised, because they are equipped with some sort of lethal weapons and where do they come from? We should be able to point it out, the source, on a national scale. Somebody should be financing it.

Which are the parties which are financing it? When I say parties, I do not mean any political parties. I mean agencies which are the agencies which are supporting this thing?

Another form of Govt.

K. K. Birla

We have several States and it is but proper that each State should look after its own interests. But side by side such steps should not lead to parochialism.

Sometimes parochialism does take place. For example, I know that in many of the States, after the Ministers are appointed or even before the Ministers are appointed, there is always a race that each district should be represented, each region should be represented. I think, this sort of tendency must be avoided. After all they are the people from the same State whether one comes from district 'A' or district 'B'. And the story does not end here. Ultimately the story also goes further as to from which part of the State, the Chief Minister should be selected.

One of the items on the agenda is education. Education does play a very important role. Wherever there are people in a State speaking a language different from the majority language of that State, they should be asked to learn that State's language.

I have no doubt in my mind also that there will be more inter-caste weddings, more inter-State weddings and that again will be a step towards integration of the country.

Unfortunately, there has been a tendency of Aya-Ram-Gaya-Ram and that certainly has given a bad picture as far as our country is concerned. The time has come when we should think whether we could have another form of government which probably might be better suited for the country in character-building. The late President Giri once made a statement saying that he wanted a unitary form of government to fight parochialism.

I will not go to that extent of agreeing with him but I certainly think that a time has come when we have to apply our mind whether for this country, a presidential type of government is more suitable or the present type of government is more suitable. I think that this is a particularly genuine problem on which there will always be differences but I would only mention that as far as businessmen are concerned some of our top leaders have expressed their views in favour of the presidential type of government.

[16 May 81 p 8]

[Text]

Untouchability councils

M. Karunanidhi

In every multi-cultural nation or multi-racial nation, such problems do arise. The United States which recently celebrated its bicentenary has its own ethnic problems. These problems have not yet been resolved even there.

Canada has completed a hundred years of existence and yet it has not been able to solve the problem of Quebec. Yugoslavia has not solved such perennial problems. Recently the constitution has been amended lock, stock and barrel and I would like to remind you that in Belgium also the problems which affect national integration have not yet been resolved.

Our Republic is 30 years old. These problems of Assam or of communal conflicts in Moradabad or the casteism issue are coming up recurrently. We need not be frightened, but at the same time we should not be complacent and we should not allow the problems to go over our head. 'Unity in diversity' is the essential ingredient of our nation. Jawaharlal Nehru said this. 'I do not want the diversity to be taken away.'

Recently our Prime Minister has also reiterated this. I would like to repeat what Mrs. Gandhi has said. When cultural divergences are there, we have to ensure that they do not harm national integration, that the languages of all communities are respected, mother tongue is respected and it does not come in the way of national unity.

Economic backwardness

We have to see that economic backwardness is removed. Those elements which also stand in that way should be removed. We have to ensure that economically backward people as well as the Harijans and tribals do not continue to suffer. They have been undergoing hardship for ages, miseries for ages.

We have to ensure that schemes are formulated for redressal of their genuine grievances. To this, I am sure, the National Integration Council would address itself to solve these problems. It is not only in Delhi but also at the State level and also at the district level that this kind of institutional framework should be established.

At the State level and the district level, we have got untouchability committees, but they are not functioning effectively and with vigour. It should be a partyless institution.

Untouchability councils or committees and also peace committees should be established at the State and the district levels. They should be made to work effectively and orderly. I am sure that these councils will devise ways for that.

Maligning campaign

Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait

MR. CHAVAN just now said that communal riots do not take place all of a sudden. There is a preparation for months. If that is so, what is our intelligence or the police machinery doing? The so-called PAC is meant to give protection. It is meant to establish peace. It is meant to control riots, but it is functioning as a communal criminal force.

Action should be taken against the PAC. When we say that action should be taken against the PAC which is responsible for all the communal riots, there will be demoralisation, but then what will happen to the lakhs and lakhs of Muslims who are getting demoralised because of the attitude of the PAC? Are they not losing confidence in the Government?

Then we say that action should be taken against the people responsible for these riots. Action should be taken against a District Magistrate or a Police Superintendent, but that is not a new demand. These things are there in the recommendations of the National Integration Council.

Here is a recommendation adopted by the National Integration Council on June 21, 1968 on the communal harmony aspect. It said, effective and prompt action should be considered for dereliction of duty and the officer concerned should be dealt with accordingly. The District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police should be made personally responsible for prompt action to stop these riots, but that is not done. You just transfer them. It is not a punishment.

Communal riots can be put an end to and peace restored. What we cannot do is that once a maligning campaign is started against a certain community, that poison you cannot remove later.

This time we have been seeing that, together with the communal riots, there has been a systematic maligning campaign even in the national press against the entire Muslim community. I say this and I charge the national press for this with full responsibility. I say that it is a maligning campaign by the national press in collaboration with the officials to a certain extent.

It was not only said that foreign money was coming, that Pakistan was supplying arms—which is all baseless and which has been denied later. There was a report, you might remember, in the papers that 15,000 bombs were discovered in a mosque at Lucknow. You can understand what damage this news can do and what mischief it can play. This was flashed throughout the country by the national press in all the media—by the radio, television, national press etc.

Three days later in some small corner, this news had been denied. This has created a crisis of confidence. The Hindus do not believe the Muslims and the Muslims do not believe the Hindus because of this news item which appears in the press. This has to be eradicated. This has to be fought.

Infiltration

There is infiltration in the police, in the cadre of officials, by the communal elements. The same RSS mentality is there. I am very clear about it. In the police, in the PAC, in the Government officials' cadre, there is this mentality, this non-secular mentality, this communal mentality. What action is taken against them? If you do not take action against those officials, the PAC, there is disillusionment about the powers of the Government to control the situation. If there is disillusionment, we get frustrated.

The question about adequate representation to the minorities in the services comes up. They say it is not possible under the Constitution. But how it is possible in Kerala? In Kerala there is reservation for minorities under the Constitution. They have appointed a commission which has gone round and tried to understand the economic conditions of the various communities. And under the Constitution, under the law, this reservation has been given to the minorities there.

But I want that there should be adequate and substantial representation of minorities everywhere. If you want to keep satisfied all sections of people and if we have not to keep them away from the national mainstream. The Muslims are not given adequate representation.

There is the military, there is the police, there are the railways, there are banks, there is the administrative set-up in the country and the foreign services. Are the Muslims given adequate representation there? This is what I want to put forth. Muslims are 12 per cent of the population and not more than two to three per cent is their representation in services.

Sense of unity should grow

M. G. Ramachandran

WHEN we talk of national integration it is not as though that there should be a unity which is likely to be established between different Governments of the States in the country. It is also not as though that the relations are to be established between the Central and the State Governments concerned. I begin to doubt whether national integration would have that interpretation.

As far as I am concerned, what I would like to say is that in the mind of each and every individual in our country, this sense of national unity should grow and should also take deep root in his mind. That is my wish.

I hope in the capacity of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu I have got the right to say this. When I refer to this point, I would like to supplement what the leader of the DMK, Shri Karunanidhi, has said. It is not that I am expressing my views on behalf of a political party. And I am sure that the members present here will agree with me that I am expressing the general view-point.

I would like to emphasise that national integration is not to be considered from the view point of casteism or communal differences. It is not that alone. We find the imbalances in the society today. There are the economic imbalances. And we would also like to say that there should not be differences in the economic measurements between the different States. The people living in all the States should have a good future and such an environment should be created which will alone be conducive for the growth of national integration.

Before the emergence of the Anna DMK, DMK was there and before that, the Dravida Kazhagam was there in Tamil Nadu. The base of certain ideas, the basis of political concepts which we had then — equality in the social status, economic equality, equality in opportunity — continues to be there today. We continued to have these principles. We have not gone astray from the basic idea.

No ideas of secession

The DMK might have at one point of time talked about secession. I have to refer to that point here. At the time Mr. Jinnah was demanding partition, there was such a feeling in Tamil Nadu. But Arignar Anna many years before had categorically declared that his party had surrendered the concept of secession. Only when the entire nation gained full independence, the constituent States would have the freedom to live according to their liking. I am duty-bound to refer to that here. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, none of us has the idea of secession.

After the bifurcation of the country on the basis of language, if we say that we should not attach importance to language, how far it is right I do not know. Similarly on the question of economic advancement, we have to see that the institutional framework is created for this purpose.

A big mind & a big heart

Ranganathananda

THE subjects of education are such that they are not training our children to develop an all-India outlook, a democratic outlook. We need to intensify this great process. Ultimately, it is from the little schools, primary and secondary schools that we get our future citizens conditioned either by the earlier feudal and caste-ridden outlook or by the modern democratic humanistic outlook so that this kind of a change in our educational approach is absolutely essential.

We have a democracy but we need a democratic mind to run it. In several areas this is missing. That is why even land reforms get scuttled when we go into the States and further down so that national integration cannot be achieved when there is so much of disparity between groups and groups, between a region and a region. This has has to be stabilised with an earnest effort.

So many measures have already been undertaken and I am sure many more will be suggested during the conference. But what is absolutely essential is to create a good forum of what we call national politics over and above the party politics.

Several speakers suggested the idea of a national attitude, attitude of a citizen

to the whole nation in politics particularly it is needed. There are several areas which can be identified and a consensus arrived at where none of these issues can be or should be exploited for any party purposes which are against the national interest. That itself will go some way towards national integration.

We need a big mind and a big heart today to deal with the mountainous problems, human problems. Everybody is eager to implement these ideals but somewhere things go wrong. It is there that we have to take special care because the people become cynical when they hear much but see little in implementation. Much talk and little implementation makes for frustration and cynicism. That cynicism is there among the people today. They think 'why should we care for all these things, nothing will come out of it.' This idea comes again and again. That is why a sense of earnestness and a sense of intense dedication to national purposes is very much needed today.

Responsibility of Govt.

Bhupesh Gupta

HOPE has been expressed that the Council would not meet the fate of the previous two. I share the hope. Not that the non-official authorities, organisations and individuals do not have their responsibilities for the success of the National Integration Council. But the main responsibility is clearly that of the Government, especially the Home Ministry, their attitude, behaviour and their policies, relating to the work of the Council.

We must draw correct lessons from past experience to ensure that the Council is not born to wither away like the previous ones. Lack of political will was there. It is not a question of whether a person is strong-willed or a very determined person. I am talking here about the collective will of such an institution.

Then another point where we failed is the point of implementation. If we take care of these two — the assertion of collective will and wisdom on the one hand, and enforcement of that will through proper machinery of implementation on the other, we will have, I dare say, gone along with.

Statutory status

We should consider giving the Council some statutory status, and there should be some link between it and Parliament. The Council should be an institution, established by law, deriving its authority from Parliament. Otherwise it depends on individual whims. If we think that this institution is necessary, why not give it some sanctions of the law and make it accountable to Parliament, the supreme national forum?

The question of national integration has acquired new urgency against the background of recent developments. We are dangerously facing the forces of disruption, disintegration and destabilisation. These forces are working in diverse ways. Some are on the surface, others are underground, secretly, and so on, but we should take note of it.

The communal violence is one sector, very serious. Then developments in the North-Eastern region, Assam, Tripura and the Government has handled the situation well.

Atrocities on the Harijans as well as the oppression of the backward classes is a problem. New upsurge among the Adivasis for development and for autonomy is another thing. Let us not think that Adivasis are only wanting some developmental activities, some bridges, some factories, some roads. They are becoming more and more politically-conscious, as indeed they should, in an advancing and dynamic situation.

Then, about widening of regional disparity and growth of regional imbalances today, reference has been made. I think here the whole complex of Governmental policies should be gone into and there must not be reliance on our monopolist friends who grab the permit in the name of development of the backward areas and divert it to some other side, whether for the purchase of bamboos or something.

Communal, caste, regional chauvinistic and secessionist elements are active and I must say we now have the external forces exploiting and aggravating the situation. I have submitted a list to the Government of the funds coming from West Germany and other countries, through some missionaries, not all missionaries or some individuals. Huge amounts, they cannot be explained because these remittances have come within a very short span of time.

Protection of minorities

Coming to the communal question, we expect that there will be protection to the Muslim minority. Let us be very frank about it. The minority problem is many-sided. Many minorities are there. But this is the biggest single minority in our country which needs protection of their life and property. They have been the victims of violence, orgies and terror. I think, we should go into this question in a more effective manner. For example, the PAC in U.P. and the Bihar Military Police in my friend Mr. Mishra's State, require reorganisation.

There are organised forces of communalism. But I find that we do not even name them. I think, last time, in the National Integration Council, we tried to ascribe all things to all men. This is not possible. If you think I am a communal

organisation, name me. If you think anybody is carrying on communal propaganda, name him. We are in a position to discuss it.

It is not a party question. It is a question of national unity. This is the overriding issue. Why don't we name these communal organisations, whether they belong to the majority community or the minority community, whether they belong to the Hindus, Muslims or any other group.

Therefore, I will suggest that there should be secularisation of the administration, particularly at the police level. Many changes have taken place during the last three to four years. I do not know why people should feel touchy about it. I do not say Mr. Chandra Shekhar or somebody else pushed people into the administration, into the police, but it did happen. Communal forces did enter the administration and police and now we should take them out of the same services.

Ways should be found out. Reorganisation of the police force, particularly of the PAC and the BMP, with adequate representation of the Muslims and Harijans must be there. Discrimination in the matter of Government jobs concerning Muslims must go. Communal propaganda must be banned. Activities of communal bodies must be curbed.

The three language formula must be faithfully implemented. Even this is not being done. The Urdu language has been given a raw deal. It has become the victim of communal bias.

Parliamentary system

Despite all its weaknesses and shortcomings, our Parliamentary democracy in the present socio-economic structure and the Cabinet-cum-Parliamentary system have played an important role in holding the nation together and promoting unity.

I remember how Nehru reacted to it once when the President of India, inaugurating the Law Institute in 1960, suggested even this much. 'What more powers the President should have, lawyers should consider.'

I moved a constitutional Amendment Bill to restrict the President's powers. Nehru came to my house and gave an assurance that the President's power, authority and position in our Constitution are the same as those of the British Crown. He said it and asked me to withdraw the Bill. I did it.

Now strangely what has happened? There should be a national debate on the form of Government. Who asked for it? Mr. Chavan asked for it? Mr. Chandra Shekhar asked for it? I asked for it? Mr. Jyoti Basu asked for it? Who? Nobody asked for it. Mr. Tata has asked for it. Mr. Birla has also asked for it. There is a national debate because our two friends have asked for it and the nation is involved in such debates.

As for the machinery you have mentioned, I think it is very important. Well, the last time in Srinagar, I was there. You appointed certain committees to produce recommendations. Today there may not be any sub-committee. I think to produce recommendations, some machinery should be there. A standing committee, some other committee, for continuing the work of ... Council should be there. A machinery should be there. It should not end in mere talk.

States' powers whittled down

E. K. Nayanar

THE leadership at the Centre is taking away by both hands even the limited powers of the States. You may go to the extent of establishing a totally unitary system of Government with the highest concentration and centralisation of power. It will not develop the integration spirit of the people. Will it solve the problem and bring national integration? If the policies are not changed, there will be more North-East, more Assams. And all the manifestations of the present crisis will increase manifold.

So, I would like to know whether the Centre is willing to consider certain basic changes in the policies. A few bits for the weaker sections, some fringe benefits to the middle classes and all the cake for the rich and the ruling classes: this would not do any more.

I would like to put forward the following suggestions. Reconstitute the National Integration Council in consultation with all the national parties represented in Parliament with adequate representation to mass organisations of workers, peasants, agricultural workers, women, youth and writers.

[18 Mayy81 p 8]

[Text] Chitta Basu

The second National Integration Council did some commendable work. It is important and it is my first suggestion that those recommendations which were made by the second Council in respect of communalism, regionalism, educational problems

and mass media should be reviewed, examined and refurbished, if need be, to make them suitable to the realities of life today.

I would suggest that the principal reason for non-implementation of those recommendations was that a working mechanism was not created for the implementation of those recommendations. Unless a built-in working mechanism is created, there is no good in the National Integration Council having such sessions. Of course it may produce other recommendations much more commendable.

The National Integration Council, as it is today, is faced with new challenges. The most important of those challenges is the question of secession. At that time the question of secession was not as important or as challenging as it is today particularly in regard to the situation prevailing in the North-Eastern region. There might have been certain trends at that time, but this tendency towards secessionism is much more pronounced today and poses a grave threat to national unity.

The secessionist and separatist forces are active in the entire North-Eastern region and in Kashmir. Foreign influences and foreign money are involved in it. Imperialist forces which are interested to see India being destabilised are also providing them succour, sustenance and all kinds of help. There is no point in denying this reality.

There are parochial forces which are also operating today. The pernicious "sons of soil" theory is raging and is creating a great problem for national unity and integrity.

Secularism should be the foundation of the entire basis of education and curricula. The working class is the vanguard of our national integration and national unity. it is not possible to build up integration by launching attacks on the democratic rights and liberties of the working class. It is a matter of great regret that certain State Governments have already taken measures to see that the democratic rights and civil liberties of the working class are attacked and curtailed, and there have been great erosions of their rights.

It is necessary that the Centre-State relations should be recast and remodelled in order to satisfy the requirements of the political situation of India today. Those days are gone when we could conceive of a mono-party rule all over the country. It is to be noted that the era of multi-party rule has emerged.

There is a tendency of having more power in the hands of the Centre. The question of national integration would then suffer a great setback.

This Council should also take note of the signs of a new awakening among the tribal people about their legitimate rights, both political and economic.

The Council should not be a forum of periodic rituals. It should be seized of these issues and take appropriate decisions.

Sikander Bakht

I am glad you have revived the National Integration Council to deal with the prevailing conditions although I am not optimistic about the results of this

effort. As I see it, some members have tried to convert it into a mutual admiration society.

Pakistan came into being in 1947. It is a theocratic State. From the standpoint of the Old Muslim League, India is to be a Hindu State but the people gave unto themselves a secular Constitution, whether we have been able to act upon that secular concept is a different matter.

India became free in 1947. At that time we had organisations like the Hindu Mahasabha and the Ram Rajya Parishad but where are they now? Where have they all gone? I want to refer to the Jan Sangh also. I congratulate it for having sacrificed its existence in the interest of the country.

The Jan Sangh affirmed its faith in democracy and changed itself accordingly. But the Muslim League is intact. Muslim Majlis is intact. By keeping these bodies intact how do you help the Muslim minority? Can communalism be eradicated from this country this way?

On the eve of the 1971 elections you gave a certificate of non-communalism to the Kerala Muslim League, a leftover of the pre-partition Muslim Leauge. You revived the Muslim League in this country. How can the revival of the Muslim League help the minorities here?

Until and unless we stop political manoeuvres, communalism would not be eradicated. This calls for heart-searching as to how far we are responsible for keeping communalism alive in the country. We raise slogans of "Hindu, Muslim Bhai Bhai." But I have never seen real brothers trying to prove that they are brothers. This very slogan shows that we are not one, we are divided, we are fragmented.

We are not prepared to give up considerations of political gain so that the country may be rid of communalism. If we are not able to do this, this exercise may better be given up.

J. R. D. Tata

I have no confidence that anything can really be achieved unless there is a total understanding and cooperation with the local authorities. Much of what has been said today is perfectly true. It cannot be achieved unless the authorities in charge particularly of law and order, in charge of the activities of the people that are controlled by the Government, if those authorities are non-communal. Unless they are secular, there is no way of ensuring that the worst will not happen again.

I know the absolute fact that in Jamshedpur when the riots took place there was not that secular and non-communal attitude on the part of certain forces. I am sorry to have, for instance, to say this because I know for a fact that when the Army was called upon, the Army had to say and did say that it would shoot any policeman who was rioting. Much of the riot we found happening was not only on communal ground, but they also took opportunities for looting.

So, any effort at achieving peace, harmony and cooperation between all communities in industry, in the railways, in organisations where large bodies of people are employed, needs and requires a secular attitude on the part of the authorities.

Chandra Shekhar

To my mind the purpose of this Council is to find areas of agreement, not to name persons, not to use strong words. We should try to rise above narrow considerations for some time. I do not say there will not be political differences. I do not say there will not be differences of approaches on various problems. But can't we think that on certain national issues which are of national importance, we can create an atmosphere of national conciliation and national consensus not only in implementing certain things but even in policy formulation?

Mr. Bhupesh Gupta who is a scientific socialist, who always believes in objective thinking, talked of history text books. I agree they are important things. But where 60 per cent of the people are illiterate, not a word has been said about adult literacy. How can you build a new nation?

All we are talking about is the great educational system which is touching hardly five per cent of the people of this country. This is our approach about the whole thing.

We should not try to transform it into a forum for accusing each other, finding fault with each other, but try to find the areas of agreement, try to locate the sensitive areas where immediate action is necessary. I shall not be quite truthful if I say that I am going to strengthen your Government. I have no such intention because whatever your Government does, I have my own reservation.

But surely, in strengthening the nation, in solving the critical problems of the nation, you can count upon our cooperation, provided even in taking policy decisions, our consultation is there.

CSO: 4220/7829

NAGA FACTION ATTACKS BORDER AREA ARMY POST

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 May 81 p 1

[Text] Kohima, May 13 (UNI)--Seven armymen, including a JCO, were killed by the Muivah-Isak faction of the underground Nagas in a surprize attack at Pakmali, in Tuen Sang district bordering Burma, in the early hours of yesterday, according to an official report.

The group, which came from northern Burma, stormed the army outpost when the seven inmates of the camp were sleeping. The JCO and five jawans were killed on the spot, while another jawan succumbed to his injuries later in the hospital, the report said.

The underground Nagas decamped with two light machineguns, two stenguns, three rifles, one wireless set and a large quantity of ammunition of various types, the report said.

This was the biggest attack on the army post by the underground Nagas since the signing of the Shillong Accord in 1975.

Heavy reinforcement and security forces were rushed to the spot. Intensive combing operation is on.

The underground Nagas escaped to their north Burma hideout after the incident.

The Muivah-Isak gang had been on the Burmese side of the border since its return from China more than four years ago.

Although Muivah is a close relative of self-exiled Naga rebel leader A Z Phizo, he is said to have fallen out with him on ideological grounds.

Both Muivah and Isak were among the earliest to go to China after the rebels decided to seek assistance of that country in October [year illegible].

The exact strength of this group is not known. One estimate has put it at between 200 and 300. It has been in the lightly administered northern Shan state of Burma, making forays into Indian territory.

CSO: 4220/7802

BJP GENERAL SECRETARY COMMENTS ON RAJIV CANDIDACY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 May 81 p 9

[Text]

BANGALORE, May 14.—The Bharatiya Janata Party general secretary, Mr L. K. Advani, said here today that efforts should be made to field a common Opposition candidate against Mr Rajiv Gandhi in the Amethi Lok Sabha by-election, reports UNI. He told a Press conference that though the Lok Dal and the Congress (U) had already decided to contest the Amethi seat, his party hoped an understanding would be reached on having a single candidate.

He said his party would support any common Opposition candidate against Mr Gandhi. However, if there were to be two parties in the field, the Central Election Committee of his party would finalise its strategy, he added.

Our Special Representative adds: Mr Advani said he was concerned with "dynastic succession", which was sought to be imposed. He said this was repugnant to all accepted norms of democracy.

"The whole approach of the Congress(I) leadership in this is an insult to the party, because it publicly proclaims that it is bankrupt of talent and so deeply feudalistic in character that dynastic succession comes very readily to it".

Asked why the BJP had not fielded a candidate for the Amethi seat, Mr Advani said the approach of his party was to put up candidates for those seats where it had a fair chance of success. He hoped there would be only one Opposition candidate at Amethi. (Congress (U) and Lok Dal candidates have filed their nominations). If there was only one Opposition candidate at Amethi, the BJP would support him, he said.

Asked which Opposition candidate the BJP would support if both Congress(U) and Lok Dal candidates remained in the contest, Mr Advani said his party's parliamentary board would have to take a decision. Would the BJP support Mr H. N. Bahuguna in the Garwal constituency? Mr Advani said no decision had been taken yet, but added that no other Opposition party had put up a candidate.

The BJP leader said his party had tried to bring about seat adjustments among Opposition parties in the forthcoming by-elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, but the response was not enthusiastic. Mr Advani said the BJP would be contesting three of the five Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh, and five of six Assembly seats in Dharwar. He said that the BJP president of Dharwar district would contest the Dharwar seat, which fell vacant after the death of Mrs Sumati Madiman, Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. The Congress(I) is yet to announce its nominee.

Asked about the possibility of a mid-term poll to the Lok Sabha in the context of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's entry into politics, Mr Advani felt that Mrs Gandhi's Government was unlikely to last the full term because of the manner in which it was functioning and the "deepening multi-dimensional crisis" overtaking the country economically and in other spheres.

Although the BJP felt that the West Bengal and Kerala Governments had "failed miserably" in solving the problems of the people in those States, it did not see any justification for Central intervention Mr Advani said.

He drew a distinction between misrule and breakdown of the constitutional machinery. If misrule could be the justification for imposing President's Rule, then many Congress(I) ruled States should have a prior claim. If breakdown of the constitutional machinery was the touchstone, Assam should be tackled first.

Mr Advani said he was opposed to Central intervention in West Bengal and Kerala although his party's opposition to the Governments in those States was "uncompromising".

CSO: 4220/7804

ROMANIAN OFFERS IN ENERGY, TRADE FIELDS DISCUSSED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 May 81 p 7

[Text] Romanian offer for supply of power plant equipments and setting up of a pelletisation plant based on Kudremukh iron ore concentrates with buy-back arrangements were under the consideration of the Indian Government.

Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee informed the Romanian parliamentary delegation on Wednesday which held discussion with him.

Ways and means to increase and diversify Indo-Romanian trade during the next five years and economic cooperation in the fields of thermal energy generation, railways and metallurgical projects were discussed at the meeting.

The Romanian delegation is led by Mr Iosif Szasz, MP and Vice-President of the Grand National Assembly.

Mr Mukherjee stressed the need for identify new areas of cooperation [as published] to strive for doubling the trade turnover during the next five years.

Both the sides agreed on the need for joint ventures in the third countries, specially in the developing countries. They also discussed the need for launching joint efforts for setting up new international economic orders.

The meeting also took note of the fact that the trade turnover between the two countries had risen from Rs 3.8 crore in 1959 to Rs 34.2 crore in 1979. It also took note of the fact that the annual trade plan for 1981 between the two countries concluded recently at Bucharest has envisaged the total trade turnover of Rs 240 crore as against Rs 219.4 crore in 1980.

India's exports consists of iron ore, accounting for almost 70 per cent of our exports to Romania. The main item of imports from Romania has been the fertiliser.

CSO: 4220/7805

PAKISTANI ENVOY: KARACHI SEEKS FRIENDSHIP

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 May 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 15: The Pakistani ambassador in New Delhi, Mr. Abdul Sattar, said today that his country did not seek an arms parity with India, had not received any military aid from the United States for the last 15 years and had no intention of producing nuclear wapons.

He asserted there was no genuine reason for any weakening of the Simla spirit and the government of Pakistan looked forward to a "genuine dialogue with India."

Varied Interpretations

Speaking at a meeting organised by the Delhi study group at the Pakistani embassy here this evening, Mr. Sattar said a propitious step towards that vista, hopefully, would be the forthcoming visit to Pakistan by the Indian external affairs minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. He said, "People of goodwill in both countries must hope that Mr. Rao's visit will make a positive contribution and foster a climate of mutual goodwill and confidence."

In an elaboration of Pakistan's defence and foreign policies, Mr. Sattar also projected the country's perception regarding regional co-operation and the Afghanistan question, particularly the problem of refugees.

He said that "misleading reports" about negotiations between Pakistan and the U.S. had been exploited and "scare-mongers have conjured up the Frankenstein of a nuclear Pakistan bristling with sophisticated weapons."

Mr. Sattar said Pakistan had to replace the obsolete and worn-out equipment in its defence forces. The anxious security environment in the region lent urgency to the need.

He said terms "massive" and "sophisticated" and what constituted military aid were all relative. "Observers in Pakistan probably differ in their judgment from "that of our friends in India" as to whether MIG-23s and 25s and Jaguar deep-penetration strike aircraft and T-27 tanks are 'sophisticated', whether their numbers are 'massive' and whether the terms of the British and Soviet loans qualify them for description as "aid". [as published]

The ambassador said a subjective complication in India-Pakistan relations had been injected by assumptions in regard to Pakistan's nuclear intentions. He asserted

that Pakistan's nuclear programme was relatively modest. It comprised a 125 MW reactor subject to international inspection, and research and development projects, geared exclusively to peaceful purposes.

The ambassador said it had been stated that cause of concern in India was not really the arms that Pakistan might acquire, but that this concern centres on military pacts or strategic arrangements into which Pakistan might be lured. Thus inducting superpower rivalry into South Asia. [as published]

Pointing out that no such proposal had been put forward by anyone, he said Pakistan had made it clear that it valued the Islamic conference and the non-aligned movement too much to allow its role and contribution in these organisations in any way to be compromised.

He, however, felt it did not carry conviction if one focussed attention on the danger of induction of one super power but ignored that of the other.

CSO: 4220/7807

SOVIET AMBASSADOR SPEAKS AT SOLIDARITY MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 May 81 p 10

[Text] Reiterating the Soviet commitment to work for world peace, USSR Ambassador in India Yuli Vorontsov declared on Thursday that "our country does not at all want the emergence of a situation of military confrontation of the USSR and the USA in the Indian Ocean".

Speaking on "Soviet initiatives for lessening tensions and against arms build up" at a public meeting organised in the Capital by the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation, he said, "the USSR considers it desirable to remove tension, to eliminate any manifestations of arms race in this region, to extend to it the process of detent".

Sounding a warning that "the clouds of war are really gathering", the Ambassador referred to a "wide spectrum of concrete and realistic initiatives made by the Soviet Union with the aim of reducing the dangers of war.

"Unfortunately", he said "the ruling circles on the other side of the Atlantic have chosen now to launch upon a wild course of adventurism and recklessness which causes a serious setback to this process".

"They use all pretexts and every conceivable means to interfere in the affairs of other peoples in order to promote their objective of military-political expansion", Mr Vorantsov said. [as published]

Dwelling on the threat to peace in and around the Indian Ocean, he noted that the US military presence in the regionawas "unprecedented in peace time" and its naval concentration "the largest since the second world war".

Describing what he called "a myth about Soviet threat" to the oil lanes of the west as a "canard, a total and white lie", Mr Vorontsov said this was being done to justify western powers' increasing military presence in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf.

Afghan Events

Events in Afghanistan had nothing to do with the real causes of the western military build-up in the Indian Ocean he said adding that imperialist forces were persistently making frenzied references to Afghanistan only to "legitimatise" in the eyes

of the world their permanent and powerful pesence [as published] in the region. "That is why Washington is turning its back on all peaceful initiatives for solving the situation around Afghanistan", he said.

These militarist actions, the Ambassador observed, increased the threat to the peace and security of the Indian Ocean countries, while a "strategic threat to the security of the USSR from the southern direction has emerged".

"Naturally", he added, "we cannot remain indifferent to this emerging danger and we are compelled to take some precautions".

Mr Vorontsov said his country firmly stood for the implementation of the UN decision to hold in Sri Lanka an international conference on the Indian Ocean. But some powers were "trying to delay, or even frustrate completely, the convocation of this conference", he said.

Recalling Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's recent observation that it is essential not to stray from the correct path, Mr Vorontsov listed the various Soviet peace initiatives and proposals to resolve outstanding international problems.

While stressing that it was "sheer madness" to expect to win a nuclear war, the Ambassador also emphasised that "we will never consent to any agreement conferring unilateral advantages on the USA".

It was fratifying, [as published] he said that India and her Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, had commended Mr Brezhnev's proposals in this regard as worthy of consideration.

Earlier Professor Rasheeduddin Khan MP who presided over the meeting, said: "When we talk about super powers, we must take into account their policy, orientation and attitude towards other countries. We can only judge this when we see which super power is more sympathetic to the countries of the third world".

He praised the Soviet Union for lending unflinching support to these countries in the interest of world peace.

CSO: 4220/7805

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION REPORTS 5-YEAR LOSSES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 May 81 p 5

[Text] The Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL) has written off stocks worth Rs 2.22 crores in the last three years, reports UNI.

During the period 1975-80, the ECIL sales fell below the value of production except in the year 1978-79, according to the latest report on the corporation by the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Losses occurred to the extent of Rs 105 lakh in 1977-78 and Rs 146 lakh in 1978-79. The total Government investment in the company was Rs 1,589 lakh comprising Rs 785 lakh in equity and Rs 804 lakh loan as at the end of March 1980.

Except for 1972-73 and 1973-74, no dividend was received by the Government. The company was set up in 1967 with the primary objective of designing and manufacturing electronic component, instruments and systems.

The report says that among the various factors that had led the company to this situation were excessive research orientation rather than commercial and self-imposed restraint on adopting foreign know-how. Changing electronic environment, unprofitable product mix, lack of effective market surveys and sales promotion. [as published]

According to the committee, the computer manufacturing wing fared very badly. The company has closed down the microwave division and eliminated seven products.

The report points out that there is not much cost control-consciousness in the ECIL. Selling prices of several products had been fixed lower than the cost of production and cost of sales. There were 44 such cases in 1977-78, 54 in 1978-79 and 32 in 1979-80.

There has been delay of more than one year in the execution of eight long-term contracts valued at 47 lakh to Rs 202 lakh for the supply of power reactor instrumentation and computer system. The delay had resulted in reduction of profits in three cases and loss of Rs 24.49 lakh as against the anticipated profit of Rs 10 lakh in one case. Further, a number of major profitable programmes planned for 1979-80 did not materialise. 'All this clearly shows that there has been no system of project monitoring and control'.

In order to cope with the rapid development of technology in advanced countries, 13 foreign collaborations were now under consideration besides the three that were finalised in 1979-80.

A scrutiny of the terms of collaboration agreement reveals that there are several restrictions on export rights and horizontal transfer of technology within the country.

The report says that on the one hand the ECIL's products like computers were reportedly rendered unprofitable on account of industrial licensing and import policies of the Government. On the other, profitable lines of production were either not allowed to be established or expanded.

The committee notes that TV division of ECIL is quite remunerative. Though there is demand for EC TV sets, production could not be augmented, the Government having, as a matter of policy, refused to licence the expansion beyond 20,000 sets per annum. The company was refused licence for the manufacture of TV tubes in 1979 although it had the necessary know-how. Refusal was on the ground that there was no need for additional capacity. However, at the same time, a licence was granted on regional considerations to a private firm which did not have the requisite know-how.

The annual general body meetings of the company have been reduced to a farce and the meetings are summoned at a short notice, the report says. It is distressing that there has been virtually no action-oriented review of performance of the ECIL by the Department of Atomic Energy, the report adds.

CSO: 4220/7805

UAE NEWSPAPER REVEALS DAYAN INDIA VISIT DETAILS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 May 81 p 6

[Text] Sharjah, May 15 (GNA): The secret visit of Gen. Moshe Dayan, former Israeli foreign minister, to India early in 1978 was arranged by a Jewish businessman called 'Ezen Bird', who represented a number of British and German companies in New Delhi, AL KHALEEJ, the Sharjah-based newspaper said yesterday.

The paper said it was disclosing all the details of Gen. Dayan's secret visit to India when the Janata government led by Mr. Morarji Desai was in power.

In its feature on the visit, the paper said the Jewish businessman managed to set up business relations with Mr. Kanti Desai, son of the then prime minister. Mr. Kanti Desai introduced the businessman to his father and conveyed to him Gen. Dayan's wish to visit India, it said.

The paper said Gen. Dayan arrived in Bombay in 1978 aboard an Alitalia plane. He was carrying an ordinary passport but was in disguise. He was wearing a thick moustache and black glasses after taking his "familiar band" off his eye.

The meeting was held in Mr. Morarji's house and in the attendance of the external affairs minister, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, it said.

It added that the target behind Gen. Dayan's visit was to seek India's support to Camp David accords and to convince the countries of the non-aligned movement to support the Egyptian-Israeli peace plans.

The secret visit also aimed to "break the ice" between India and Israel in a bid to set up full diplomatic relations between the two countries, the paper said.

CSO: 4220/7807

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC SECTOR PERFORMANCE CONTINUES

Petroleum Minister's Remarks

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 May 81 p 5

[Text] **MINISTER of Petroleum P. C. Sethi shares the concern of Finance Minister R. Venkataraman that in many respects the progress made by public enterprises so far "has belied our expectations", reports PTI.**

In spite of the huge investments made in these enterprises, he said their growth and contribution to the economy on the whole had been uneven and inadequate.

Mr Sethi was speaking at the seminar in Delhi on objectives, achievements and progress of public enterprises under the auspices of the Centre for Public Sector Studies on the concluding day on Tuesday.

The Finance Minister had noted in his inaugural address yesterday that while the public enterprises had progressed in several directions they had yet to deliver results commensurate with the massive investments which had gone into them at great public satrifice.

The Petroleum Minister said that while there had been significant progress in some sectors and enterprises in achieving a state of 'self-sustaining growth', other enterprises or sectors had lagged behind.

Far from generating adequate surplus for helping the economy towards further progress, he said, several enterprises had been depending on Government funds in continuing their day-to-day operations.

There had been serious shortcomings in achieving the desired level of productivity and capacity utilisation, in management of financial and material resources, in developing an adequate standard of maintenance of plant and equipment and in the satisfactory exploitation of the human resources that the public enterprises possessed, he said.

The Petroleum Minister believed that one serious inhibiting factor in improving the organisational effectiveness of public enterprises was the absence—in many cases of an internally consistent set of objectives which these enterprises had to fulfil as well as a set of performance criteria against which their efficiency and effectiveness had to be assessed.

While noting that the macro-objectives of the public enterprises in the country had seldom been in doubt, he said there had been unfortunately a certain degree of ambivalence and even lack of enthusiasm in translating these macro-objectives into sectoral objectives or micro-objectives of the individual enterprises in each sector.

Mr Sethi emphasised the need for mutual consultation between the administrative ministries and between the major sectors of public enterprises to establish the inter-sectoral linkages in goal-setting and developing properly coordinated implementation strategies for their respective corporate plans.

Loss by Heavy Units

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 May 81 p 5

[Text] The 16 public sector undertakings under the Department of Heavy Industry suffered an aggregate loss of Rs 33.63 crore in 1980-81, according to statistics compiled by the Industry Ministry. This loss was Rs 24.85 crore higher than that suffered during 1979-80, reports UNI.

According to the Ministry, the increase in aggregate losses was due to the higher loss suffered by the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) which was Rs 40.95 crore and the decline in profits of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd from Rs 43.30 crore in 1979-80 to Rs 35 crore in 1980-81.

Another undertaking in which profits declined in 1980-81 was the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. The HMT profits came down to Rs 16.79 crore from Rs 23.73 crore in 1979-80. The decline in their profits was attributed to the two month's strike in their Bangalore, Hyderabad and Kalamassery units.

The Ministry however expected that with the improvement in production the undertakings were likely to earn an aggregate profit of Rs 10.08 crore during 1981-82.

CSO: 4220

INTERVIEW WITH GONSALVES ON INDIAN-ASEAN RELATIONS

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 27 May 81 pp 4, 8

[Interview with Eric Gonsalves, secretary general of the External Affairs Ministry of India]

[Text]

The following is the text of an interview with Eric Gonsalves, secretary general of the External Affairs Ministry of India. The interview, which gives Gonsalves' view of ASEAN-Indian relations, appeared in the New Straits Times of Kuala Lumpur on May 20.

Q: From your many complaints would you describe the ASEAN attitude towards India as hostile?

A: There has been a somewhat more negative attitude in the last six to eight months than there was before. There has been a lot of backtracking in the past year. A number of contracts and projects and so on which should have gone to us have been turned down.

If this continues, automatically one's interest gets diverted. We have to go where the climate is more hospitable. My understanding is that you (Malaysia, for instance) want to diversify, you want to change a little bit of your dependence on Japan. You recognise India has the appropriate technology. Therefore it is a matter of mutual benefit.

If this political sort of angle is going to come in, it is a pity . . . after all, these (economic cooperation) are all long-term things.

Kampuchea is going to be settled one way or another. It will not be a problem between us maybe after two, three or four years. When you have a promising thing which has been going on for 20, 30 years and you, short-sightedly, put a sort of stopper on it for the sake of something which is ephemeral, that is a pity. We can't have all the advantages . . .

Q: At the February non-aligned foreign ministers conference in New Delhi, ASEAN said that the paragraph on Southeast Asia put up by India as host in the draft communique was a Vietnamese draft. What is you comment?

A: It started with draft communique when President Suharto (of Indonesia) came to Delhi (in December). That was the latest ASEAN position. Now if the Indonesians play games, it is for you to talk to the Indonesians, not for me. They are part of ASEAN.

We explained to your people that it was an Indonesian draft. So if your boys (Foreign Ministry officials) go round to say it was a Vietnamese draft, then I am afraid that was a deliberate misreport.

Q: How do you describe the present state of relations between ASEAN and India?

A: It's sort of nebulous. I don't really know which way they wanted to go. I don't know what ASEAN wants.

I think on the basis of being a long-term economic, social and cultural thing, we want to do a great deal. But if it is to be basically a political game in which everybody sort of stands four square on Kampuchea, the rest of it follows: Then we don't play that game. I don't know what ASEAN wants. ASEAN has to make up its mind.

If it is purely a question of making and breaking on Kampuchea, that is all right. I accept that, if that's what ASEAN is about. But, if ASEAN is about something else, which is developing regional economic growth – that's what I understood it to be, mainly an economic grouping with a sort of political base – on that basis we can do business. But not on the basis of Kampuchea and nothing else . . . it is for ASEAN to decide.

Q: What is your impression after your talks with Wisma Putra (For-

eign Ministry) officials here?

A: I get confused. Here you really tried to have it both ways. On the one hand, they keep saying to us, you have good relations with the Vietnamese, so you can possibly influence them this way, that or the other.

On the other hand, if we don't condemn the Vietnamese, if we don't support the UN resolution (on Kampuchea), then they don't want to have anything to do with us. The two are incompatible.

You can't have good relations with the Vietnamese and help something along – move things – if you are going to stand up like Singapore and be counted. That is not possible.

Secondly, it is naive because the position of every country must depend upon its geo-political position. You (ASEAN) have a geo-political position. We have a diferent position, we are neighbours with China, we have our problems with China. Take a country like Australia or Britain, they can't support the ASEAN position on Pol Pot. There is practically no country in the world that supports the ASEAN position on Pol Pot.

Q: If what you have just said is true, how do you explain the overwhelming support for the ASEAN-sponsored resolution on Kampuchea in the UN?

A: That's a gimmick. These overwhelming majorities mean nothing. We have had so many overwhelming majorities. When Bangladesh was liberated, we were asked to withdraw our troops by 11 votes. Of course, we didn't withdraw our troops. Bangladesh was liberated. That was the end of it. Within six months every one of these countries recognised Bangladesh.

These votes don't mean anything. They are a certain trend of political forces in the world. And in the Third World today, there is a swing away from the Russians to the US-China axis.

Secondly, there is a genuine fear in the world that if this sort of aggression across frontiers and the break-up of governments is allowed to continue, a lot of Third World countries have to worry.

These are facts which one recognizes. There are ways of doing something about this when something has happened. We can can try and work out a political solution relating to the concerns of the people who walked across frontiers. People just don't walk across frontiers for the heck of it. It doesn't matter whether they are Russians, Americans or Chinese – they have reasons.

One has to find the reasons to see whether you can get them back across that frontier. Frankly, we have not succeeded. The Chinese are still sitting on our territory. But we are not asking people to stand up in the UN and sort it out. We are talking to the Chinese because we recognise it is the only way it can be done. So, as I have said, eventually you have to find a political solution because there is no way you can forcibly undo this thing, as far as I can see. .

Q: Are you implying that as far as ASEAN is concerned, the Kampuchean issue is the be-all and end-all of the whole relationship with India?

A: I think some countries, like Singapore and Thailand, are using it.

I think Thailand feels that India's presence could sabotage the kind of political support that they presently get out of the ASEAN dialogue.

Singapore, I think, is not so worried about it. Generally, they are pretty much on the same wave length as Thailand. I think Singapore, after the non-aligned conference, feels they can work these things out.

The Philippines, temporarily, I think because they want to get American endorsement for the election, may go along. Indonesia and Malaysia would wish us to be in the dialogue.

Q: How keen is India to have the dialogue with ASEAN?

A: We, on the original basis of what ASEAN was, what ASEAN I think will be, we are interested in a dialogue. We think there is benefit for both of us. If for the time being, this political problem of Kampuchea is going to cause a sort of problem, or an embarrassment, then clearly it is of no advantage for both of us to come together right now. Maybe we should stay apart.

It doesn't become us, it doesn't become anyone. But as I have said, the developments being such, India and ASEAN have to come together. This is something which I don't think can be stopped.

We are not as powerful as China is. But there is a tendency to overvalue China and to devalue India. We are much more effective than we are given credit for, because most people don't know what we are and what we can do. And most people also don't know what China can and cannot do. It is not nearly as great and as powerful as we think it is . . .

Today, India has the capacity for helping other Third World countries because of the stage of technology and development we have reached. This is automatic magnet – we will come together. I say it is a pity this development is hanging . . . I think it is a temporary aberration.

If we are properly invited (to next month's ASEAN dialogue with third countries in Manila) we would gladly come. We don't want to

cause embarrassment, whichever way, whether we come or we don't come.

I think there is a mistaken impression that we were very keen on the dialogue and so for the dialogue we would be willing to make political concessions. Now, unfortunately, we have to disabuse them (ASEAN) of this idea.

Everybody accepts there will be Vietnamese influence on Kampuchea. Now it is only a question of what level of influence and that surely is negotiable. That is exactly what we say. There is no difference in our position. On the basics there is no difference. But, in spite of that, we are sort of being held up as a bad boy. I fail to follow this.

Q: What kind of a role can India play in solving the Kampuchean problem?

A: You see there are three great powers in the world – Russia, China, America – these are powers that can play a role. Everybody else cannot play roles. That, I think, is simplistic. .

We have not used military force beyond our border, excepting when provoked and so we are not a great power. We have not contributed to subversion. . . and so we are not a great power. Being a democracy we don't have the capacity the Americans have, anyway, we can't.

So, I accept the fact that we are not a great power in the same sense as the Chinese and we don't manipulate other countries. But, to the extent of establishing a sort of linkage through which you can provide certain options, even if it is minimum, maybe a little economic aid, certain amount of technical cooperation and so on, I think we can play a role. It is not a very big role.

What is sort of being pushed through now is that the Kampucheans or Heng Samrin are bad boys. Therefore they should be squeezed, so to whom do they go? To the Soviets.

Now, at the same time, everybody says that the Soviets must be kept out of Southeast Asia. And you do exactly the opposite. And I think the biggest idiots in this are these fools in Peking who, I think, are bringing the Soviets on to their southern perimeter, sort of willy-nilly. This is frankly something that we do not want any more than they do.

A great power confrontation all along the southern perimeter of China is going to be destabilising for all of us, to them and for us. You are playing a part in this game but you don't see it in a slightly long-term.

To the extent that one can keep the Vietnamese with a little bit of non-aligned option, a little bit of Asian option, at least Southeast Asian option, I think we can play a role, not a very large role. We can't change the face of Southeast Asia, No. But, I don't think the Chinese can change the face of Southeast Asia either.

Q: It is reported that the Vietnamese told the UN special envoy Mr Essafi that Vietnam is prepared to talk to ASEAN on Kampuchea in a regional conference. What is the latest Vietnamese position?

A: Essafi didn't have to tell them (ASEAN). I told them this in Delhi (at the February non-aligned conference). Your people do not want to listend to me. Because of your strategy – you made it clear that the discussion must be on Kampuchea, it must be withdrawal, it must be self-determination. So, I went to Co Thach (Vietnamese foreign minister) – so these are what these are what these people say.

He (Co Thach) said to me," Let's not have a fixed agenda. If there is no agenda, then everything can be discussed, including Kampuchea. I told this to Mochtar, Ritharddeen and Dhanabalan (foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore respectively) – all your people know this. I am certain Co Thatch told Ritharddeen this in Delhi himself.

It's not as if the ASEAN position has not also had its shifts and things. The Vietnamese have as many complaints about you as you have about them. Part of the trouble is you have too many people conducting negotiations and saying different things.

The Vietnamese said to me that the ASEAN countries said to us (Hanoi) that we (ASEAN) want a guarantee of withdrawal, We (Hanoi) are prepared to give that but over a period of time, provided there is no interference from Pol Pot. That is a proviso which can be negotiated.

Then, they (ASEAN) said they wanted self-determination, something like Timor, with a few observers. They (the Vietnamese) said maybe we can work something out like that also.

But, then ASEAN came back to say no, we want a UN-supervised election, UN conference, then they start establishing a third front, they want to bring Sihanouk back. What does ASEAN want?

Then again somebody (I won't mention the name) went to them, to Co Thach, and said, on behalf of ASEAN I presume" that the Thais are very worried about the eight provinces of Laos and the 16 provinces of Kampuchea which you have occupied. Are you prepared to give a guarantee? (not to touch Thailand, etc. . . .)

So, Co Thach said "I would give that guarantee but that guarantee, of course, would have to be subscribed by the governments of Kampuchea and Laos . . .

Then he (Co Thach) said "I was asked to go and tell this to the Thais by somebody else in ASEAN. I went to the Thais and they said this is not negotiable, we don't want to discuss this." So, I (Co Thach) said, "What am I going to do with these people?"

Q: It was obvious Vietnam talked very tough to ASEAN at the non-aligned conference in Delhi. Do you agree?

A. You see everybody plays games. He (Co Thach) knew he had to take a very tough negotiating position to start with. He didn't realise he had to give quite so much in the end. But, in the end, I must say he gave in gracefully, there was no recrimination.

To my mind, it is a question of priorities. The Vietnamese naturally want to eliminate Pol Pot, the China threat, that is their priority.

ASEAN wants a Vietnamese withdrawal. Just like the fighting in Iran-Iraq, neither side can have what they want to come first. I think there is an element of common ground. It was agreed that there would be regional consultations, not a conference. That agenda is flexible enough to include Kampuchea: That was also broadly indicated.

If one can work towards some kind of jigsaw in which the guarantees about Pol Pot, China business on the one side and the Vietnamese withdrawal on the other, we are to some extent in a position to be meshed in to each other. If people talk in good faith about pulling back in from either side, then I think this is the only way to work towards some kind of political solution.

CSO: 4220/296

ANTIGOVERNMENT GROUP HONORS MARATHI WRITERS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 81 p 5

[Text] Bombay, May 12. Prizes of Rs 1,000 each were given to eight Marathi writers at a function held here yesterday in protest against the Maharashtra government's recent controversial decision on book awards.

The entire amount for the prizes was raised through donations from numerous individuals so as to bring about people's participation in the anti-government move. As a spokesman of the function said, many donors were willing to meet the entire expense single-handed. But this was deliberately avoided.

The government recently rejected on political grounds the recommendation of an expert committee for giving awards to three books. The decision had created a furore at the Marathi sahitya sammelan held in Akola early this year.

Mr N. G. Goray, Janata Party leader and former high commissioner in London, presided. The function was organised by a Marathi weekly known for its right-wing views. The prizes were given by a non-political figure, Mr Jeetendra Abhisheki, well-known vocalist and music director.

Of the three writers, whose books were rejected for government awards, two received the prizes, Mr Vinay Hardikar and Mr B. N. Rajhans. The third, Mr Arun Sadhu, noted novelist and author of "Simhasan," the book in question, was not present on the occasion.

Prizes were also given to six writers and poets who had announced that they would not accept the awards announced by the government. The writers were: Prof. Y. D. Phadke, A. N. Pednekar, Mahavir Jondhale, Ratnakar Matkari, Vasant Bapat and Mangesh Padgaonkar. Their action too was in protest against the government's decision.

Prof. G. B. Sardar, distinguished scholar, explained that the function was intended to be only a symbolic protest and that there was no intention to create parallel awards. In fact, he said, no one should think of going in for such a parallel scheme since writers always needed to work in cooperation with the government without compromising.

He said that Marathi literature with its tradition of over 700 years could not be taken lightly. The government, he said, had realised its mistake in rejecting the awards. But now it has become a matter of prestige, he said.

Mr N. G. Goray said that there was nothing wrong in receiving prizes from the government as it was the duty of the authorities to promote literature and culture.

However, the fact was that the government had ignored the recommendations of various committees like the administrative reforms committee, on many occasions.

He suggested that no entries for government literary awards be sent till the government gave an assurance that it would not bypass expert recommendations.

Prof. Madhav Manohar, literary critic, said that the government's decision was an affront to good taste and its defence of the action even more appalling.

Prof. Y. D. Phadke announced that he would donate the prize money and Rs 1,000 from his own pocket in aid of Baba Amte's social work. Vinay Hardikar too announced that he would donate the prize amount to two social service organisations.

The government rejected Hardikar's "Janacha Prawahaho Chlila" a book on the author's emergency experiences, on the ground that it contained certain references detrimental to national integration. The objection to Sadhu's book was that it showed rural politicians in poor light and Rajahan's book on Mr Jayaprakash Narayan was found to make the allegation that Mr Narayan's kidney was deliberately damaged at the instance of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Mr Goray said that Mr Narayan had himself told him that he suspected that this had happened.

Mr G. V. Behere, editor of the weekly SOBAT, welcomed the gathering.

CSO: 4220

CPI SECRETARY SCORES PAKISTANI RULERS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 May 81 p 7

[Text] The CPI has denounced the "barbarous repression" let loose in Pakistan by the Zia dictatorship against all progressive and democratic forces.

Party secretary N K Krishnan said in a statement on Tuesday that the leader of the Communist Party of Pakistan Jam Saqi has been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment by a special military court after being tortured "inside the military camp and in the notorious Lahore Fort."

He said that besides Mr Saqi, other patriot leaders like Prof Jamal Naqi, Pakistan Workers' Federation leaders Shamim Wasti, Ahmed Kamal Warsi and Shabir Shar and other student leaders were facing trials by a special military court.

"All these leaders have been arrested for their consistent struggle against the military junta, for democratic rights and for active support and solidarity with the Afghan revolution," he added.

Mr Krishnan charged that the oppression has been let loose as the Zia regime's reactionary policies of selling the country to the "US imperialism and anti-India and anti-Afghan hatred were meeting with opposition inside Pakistan itself."

He said that the Zia dictatorship was fully utilising the backing extended to it by the US imperialism and China to intensify its anti-democratic repression there.

Expressing solidarity with the freedom-fighters here, the statement demanded immediate end to repression and release of all political prisoners.

CSO: 4220

RESERVE BANK CHIEF REPORTS ECONOMY IMPROVED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 May 81 p 4

[Text] Simla, May 12--The country's economy is now in a better shape than a year ago thanks to the increased industrial and agricultural production. There is also improvement in the availability of essential commodities.

This was stated by Reserve Bank of India Governor I G Patel here yesterday.

However, he said the balance of payments position has not improved because of rising oil import bill and certain other factors. Mr Patel said the policy of credit caution would be continued because RBI wants to see credit expansion is not unduly large.

He said inflation in the country has also come down. The release of dearness allowance installments to Government employees at intervals makes only a negligible affect on inflation, he explained.

Answering questions about overdrafts by various States, the Reserve Bank Governor said warnings have been issued to the State Governments against this. The State's had no right to overdraw at the RBI had fixed their overdraft limits at two and a half times more compared to previous years, he explained. [as published]

Mr Patel said the question of restructuring the banking system as a whole was under consideration. The policy regarding opening of new branches of banks would also be revised shortly. However, the emphasis would continue to be on more branches in rural areas, he said.

Referring to rural credit the RBI chief said the achievements of berala in protecting and promoting rural credit agencies, were worth emanating and recommended such credit agencies in other States as well.

CSO: 4220

SMALL INDUSTRIES GROUP REPORTS PRODUCTION INCREASE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 81 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, May 12: Production by small-scale units increased from Rs 7,200 crores in 1973-74 to Rs 19,060 crores in 1979-80, according to the annual report of the small industries development organisation (SIDO).

The small-scale sector accounted for 62 per cent of the production by village and small industries in terms of value added or 23 per cent of the total industrial production in the country.

Employment doubled during the same period--from three million to 6.46 million. Exports from this sector totalled Rs 1,050 crores or 16 per cent of the total exports in 1979-80.

In 1980-81, the production in the small-scale sector was estimated at Rs 28,080 crores at current prices.

A total of 235,300 units received technical economic and managerial assistance from SIDO during 1980-81. The workshops and testings centres of SIDO executed 33,750 jobs and supplied 26,000 drawings and blueprints to small entrepreneurs. In addition, 8,550 units were given export and marketing assistance.

The small-scale sector today produces not only consumer goods but many sophisticated and precision products like electronic systems, electro-medical equipment and TV sets.

The sixth five-year plan aims at an 8.7 per cent annual growth in production by the small-scale sector. It is expected that by the end of 1984-85, a production level of Rs 32,873 crores would be achieved The value of exports from this sector is expected to rise by Rs 1,850 crores and employment to 8.9 million.

The number of items reserved for the small-scale sector has gone up to 834. A high-level standing committee had been set up to monitor and review the working of the reservation policy. A total of 379 items have been reserved for exclusive purchase from this sector by government and public sector organisations.

Nucleus plants are proposed to be set up in selected districts for developing ancillary industries. These would help the small units in upgrading their technology.

CSO: 4220

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY CLOSES AFTER INCIDENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 81 p 1

[Text] Aligarh, May 12 (PTI). THe Aligarh Muslim University was closed for an indefinite period today after one student was killed and another injured in police firing in front of the vice-chancellor's residence.

The students have been asked to vacate hostels.

Four students sustained minor injuries in the incident.

The district magistrate, Mr R. R. Shah, said that about one hundred students came to the V-C's residence to court arrest. They were followed by a very large number of students who were shouting slogans against the vice-chancellor and district authorities. They indulged in heavy brick-bat-throwing, resulting in injuries to 22 police and CRPF personnel, including an additional district magistrate, a superintendent of police and an assistant commandant of CRPF.

As heavy brickbat-throwing continued, police fired four rounds. Two students were injured, one of whom died in hospital. The condition of the other was stated to be serious.

Among other things, the students are demanding the resignation of the vice-chancellor, Mr Sayed Hamid.

The university was reopened in phases from April 9 after about two months' closure following student violence.

CSO: 4220

NORTHERN STATES HAMPER POWER GRID PROGRESS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 12. Some northern states are hampering the progress of the national power grid by resisting the installation of equipment for controlling power flow.

The load frequency controllers, which are necessary for optimising the power system operation and cutting losses, have already been installed in the southern region and the eastern and western regions have agreed to implement them. The scheme is, however, being opposed by the states in the northern region as they are afraid of losing control of their hydro stations.

According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the system is essential for the successful functioning of the national power grid. The continued opposition of the northern states may delay efficient operation of even the regional grid.

The load frequency controller scheme does not involve any equipment at the power houses to act on the generators. It comprises only software through which the computers at the regional load despatch centre convey a signal to the computer terminal at the state load despatch centre through an interface.

The CEA, under whose overall control the scheme is being implemented, feels that the load frequency controllers are essential for the working of even a regional grid of the dimension of the northern grid.

This is not the only controversy surrounding the concept of a national grid. While transmission voltage of 400 kv has been adopted for the national grid, there is a view that 500 kv would have been more advantageous and that India should have learnt from the experience of other countries which regretted their choice of 400 kv.

According to the energy ministry, the decision of transmission voltage was taken in 1971 on the basis of proven systems. The industry went into collaboration for 400 kv equipment and a fresh decision would require the industry to change over.

Some experts have also felt that the transmission towers from Singrauli to Delhi and other sectors should have been constructed for more than one circuit even though it would have required additional investments.

The government has not fixed any time-frame for the completion of the national power grid though it has been stated that regional grids with permanent load facilities at the regional and state levels would become operational by the end of the sixth plan. The parliamentary estimates committee has suggested that a time-bound programme for competing the various states of the national grid should be laid down and progress monitored with a view to making the national grid a reality by a target date. [as published]

CSO: 4220

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF INDIA HOLDS DELHI MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 May 81 p 8

[Text]

THE Republican Party of India (Gavai) has demanded the appointment of a special commission by the President to assess the economic and social progress made by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in relation to the advanced communities, reports PTI.

The central executive of the party, which met in Delhi in the last two days under the chairmanship of the party chief, Mr R S Gavai, in a resolution said that such a commission could be appointed under Article 340 of the Constitution.

The resolution declared that no one will say that reservation should continue indefinitely, but a limit could be set for its existence by launching a time-bound programme for uplifting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Another resolution passed by the executive demanded that reservation in services in Government and public sector undertakings provided for weaker sections, should be extended to neo-Buddhists.

A resolution on atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes demanded enactment of special law incorporating stringent punishment and collective fine on those who committed atrocities on the weaker sections.

Another resolution expressed the party's view that marriages should be encouraged between caste Hindus and Harijans and other weaker sections in the larger interest of social integration.

The party demanded electoral reforms, and suggested doing away of "political reservation" in legislatures, and introduction in its place of multi-number constituency with a cumulative system of votes.

Mr Gavai on Tuesday expressed his concern over reports of conversions to Islam of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in some parts of the country.

Mr Gavai, who is the chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, was asked by PTI to comment on reports appearing in the press in recent days about such conversions taking place.

Mr Gavai said he had also come to know of an incident in Madurai district in Tamilnadu where over 1000 Scheduled Caste people embraced Islam recently.

"It is up to the Hindus to consider this problem and take steps to bring about integration of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Hindu fold", he said.

CSO: 4220

CPM LEADER SEES WAR THREAT 'ACROSS BORDERS'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 May 81 p 19

[Text] Cochin, May 14 (UNI). The CPM stands for an "alternative united front" which accepts alternative policies" against the Congress(I), according to the party general secretary, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad.

Addressing a public meeting here yesterday, he said the "threat" of a war from across the borders could not be ignored or minimised just because it was Mrs Indira Gandhi who raised the "bogey."

Mr Namboodiripad said that the U.S. President, Mr Ronald Reagan, and the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, were out to drag the world to the brink of a catastrophe and one of the "alternative policies" that the CPM envisaged was to ensure world peace in the face of this threat.

Another, he said, was to find solutions to the burning problems of the common man and to preserve democracy. The "alternative" united front would be that of left parties, organisations, groups and individuals who accepted these policies, he said.

Mr Namboodiripad said it was strange that the BJP, the Janata Party and the Lok Dal tend to forget reality, each claiming itself to be the political alternative to the Congress(I). The CPM did not do this, although it had more claims with three communist chief ministers in the country.

He made it clear that in building a left and democratic alternative to the Congress(I), the CPM would also oppose the economic and social policies of the BJP, the Janata Party and the Lok Dal.

He said his party could not subscribe to the Janata leader, Mr Morarji Desai's contention that there was nothing wrong in US arming Pakistan. Nor could it discern a rationale behind the "new-found love" of the BJP towards China.

Mr Namboodiripad attributed the reason for the rearing of disruptive forces in many parts of the country to the "threat" posed by "American imperialists."

CSO: 4220

TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR THIRD WORLD PLANNED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 May 81 p 7

[Article by L. K. Sharma: "India To Have Technology Centre for Third World"]

[Text] New Delhi, May 13. A centre for science and technology for non-aligned countries will be established in India during the current financial year for promoting joint research in selected fields and transfer of technology among developing countries.

The proposal for such a centre has been under consideration in various forums during the past several years. The Colombo non-aligned summit had approved the establishment of the centre at Lima but when Peru expressed its inability to provide host facilities for the centre, India offered to step in.

A plenipotentiary conference of non-aligned and developing countries will adopt the statutes of the centre, which will come into being after ratificiation by the prescribed number of countries.

In the initial stages, India would be expected to provide facilities such as land, buildings and possibly a core staff. The centre is expected to function as a clearing house of information regarding technical capabilities of non-aligned countries. Its activities will strengthen the concept of collective self-reliance through technical cooperation among developing countries.

India is one of the five coordinating non-aligned countries for cooperation in science and technology. It had earlier provided host facilities for a regional centre for technology transfer which was set up in Bangalore in 1977 under the administrative control of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). This UN centre, however, faced serious financial problems and had to organise its activity within this limitation. Recently, it has got a major technical cooperation project approved following the establishment of an interim U.N. fund for science and technology for development.

With its considerable technological capabilities and scientific manpower, India is now planning to coordinate national efforts for providing technical cooperation to other developing countries. Three ministries are involved in identification and approval of projects and a sum of $5.8 million is being made available for these projects for the current three-year cycle of technical cooperation among the developing countries.

Some projects have already been identified. The administrative problems related to the utilisation of these funds are being sorted out by the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) since it is from its assistance to India that the funds have been earmarked.

India ranks first among the countries of the Colombo Plan region in providing technical assistance in the form of training and services of experts. Several pilot plants based on the Indian know-how are being set up in Burma. Indian consultancy organisations have assisted a number of developing countries in activities connected with industrial and infra- [as published]

However, the effort made till now is just the beginning, if one considers the immense potential that exists in the field. Indian technological capabilities and processes are more suited to the requirements of other developing countries which have often found the more sophisticated Western technologies to be somewhat inappropriate in their conditions.

Leaders from Latin American, African and West Asian countries have been impressed by India's advancement in science and technology and all recent visitors from these countries expressed their keenness to intensify technical cooperation with India. If the Mexican President wanted India to assist his country in agricultural research, leaders from oil-producing countries desired India's assistance in the petrochemicals field. Some of these countries also face the restrictive practices of the Western companies holding sophisticated technologies. Technical cooperation naturally brings commercial benefits also to the parties concerned.

India has not been able to project its scientific and technological achievements in developing countries to the extent it could have because of lack of co-ordination between R and D agencies and industry in the country. This has hampered the commercial exploitation of indigenous design and development in some of the most sophisticated areas where the gap between India and the advanced countries was not considerable.

Most Striking Case

The most striking case is that of India's advances in the space technology. India set up its satellite earth stations largely through its own efforts. It designed and built up a terrestrial infrastructure for satellite TV when hardly any advanced country had ventured into the field. It was some years later that several developing countries started going in for satellite communications, offering to Western companies contracts for turn-key projects.

Even though it had established a lead in this field among developing countries, India could get no share in this growing market. This was because any commercial exploitation of indigenous development was beyond the terms of reference of the prime R and D agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation. The public sector units such as Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. and the Indian Telephone Industries should have formed a consortium to further refine the equipment and to bid for foreign orders in the space technology, the business in which is increasing at a mind-boggling pace.

CSO: 4229

COMMITTEE PLANNED TO WORK OUT ASSAM SOLUTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 May 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, May 18.

A small tripartite committee consisting of representatives of Assam movement leaders and officials of the Union home ministry will be constituted to thrash out a formula to determine the future of foreigners who infiltrated into Assam between 1961 and 1971.

The proposals mooted by the Union home minister, Mr. Zail Singh, at his brief separate meetings with the All-Assam Students' Union and the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad delegations today was accepted by the movement leaders.

The proposal was made in the belief that it was not possible to work out a cogent formula at a meeting attended by nearly 40 people.

This is not the first time that the committee device was used to solve the foreigners problem in Assam. In March last, a similar committee was constituted to draft proposals.

The draft proposals, however, could not be discussed with the home minister, who said that the foreigners question had international ramifications. The government needed more time to consider the question.

Contrary to a statement made by the home ministry in October last that the movement leaders had accepted the modalities of detection of foreigners and /suo moto/ [in italics] grant of citizenship to all detected foreigners who entered the state between 1951 and 1961, the movement leaders today asserted that the question was linked with the distribution of foreigners who came between 1961 and 1971 amongst various states.

The movement leaders objected to this part of the resume of the last meeting. According to the 1971 census, 1,300,000 Hindus and 24,000 Muslims clandestinely entered Assam between 1961 and 1971.

The movement leaders also objected and "if possible" deported or sent post-1971 infiltrators would be detected and "if possible" depored [as published] or sent elsewhere.

The leaders held that those who came after 1971 had to be shifted or deported and that the government could not hedge behind 'ifs' and 'buts.'

The government could easily start negotiations with Bangladesh for repatriation in the same manner in which the Sri Lanka government concluded an agreement for repatriation of Indians settled in Sri Lanka.

The AASU president, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mohanta, and general secretary, Mr. Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, later said if the government accepted their proposal to move out the foreign nationals who had entered the state during 1961-1971 to other states, they would accept regularisation of those who entered the state between 1951 and 1961.

"Under no circumstances, would they compromise their basic stand that the detection of foreign nationals should begin from 1951." There was no question of their accepting 1967 or any other year as a cut-off date.

CSO: 4220/7821

DROUGHT HITS 852 VILLAGES IN RAJASTHAN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 May 81 p 22

[Article by P. C. Gandhi]

[Text] Pali, May 18: Of the 852 villages in this drought-prone western district of Rajasthan, four are now totally uninhabitated and the rest have been declared famine-affected. [as published]

About 1.27 million people and 300,000 cattle are facing acute shortage of drinking water. In fact, nearly 200,000 cattle have already migrated from the district.

In about 60 problem villages, human beings and cattle quench their thirst from the same village ponds which are occasionally filled by tankers arranged by the district authorities.

Although the availability of foodgrains or fodder is not much of a problem the loss of 75 per cent of the kharif crop has resulted in very low purchasing power among the people in rural areas. The almost total failure of the winter rains in the district has aggravated the drinking water problem.

Twelve tankers and five tractor-trollies are engaged in supplying drinking water to some hard-hit villages. But the villagers complain that the water supplied is inadequate. In these circumstances, taking a bath in this summer month is a luxury exclusively meant for the few whealthy. [as published]

About 57,000 people, mostly women, are engaged in 800 relief works spread all over the district. Each labourer is paid Rs. 7 a day. Although payments are made every fortnight, instances of delay are not rare.

Mr. P. R. Parikh, additional district magistrate of Pali, told this correspondent that the labourers had been paid their due till April 15.

He pointed out that these works had been started by various departments and payments were made directly by officials in-charge of the works. The district administration was only co-ordinating these efforts aimed at providing relief to the drought-affected people.

Besides this, 568 works have been started by various panchayat samitis. These are of a local nature and are essentially meant to create permanent village assets.

The forest department has also embarked upon an ambitious programme of creating a vast grass belt. Fourteen fodder depots have been set up where grass is sold at a subsidised rate for milch cattle.

Each panchayat samiti is entitled to a loan of Rs. 5,000 to purchase stocks of grass for sale to cattle owners in its area. This enables the people to save on transport charges to a considerable extent.

The government manages fodder-depots which sell dry grass for Rs. 21 to Rs. 23 a quintal. The district authorities still have 68,000 quintals of fodder in stock after having sold about 25,000 quintals.

Those cattle being moved to other areas are provided fodder free of charge once daily.

The district administration has also taken up a number of minor irrigation and soil conservation schemes besides making use of the available underground water resources.

About 9,000 people and nearly 32,000 cattle in ten villages benefit from water supplied by the Jawai canal. Ninety-five existing wells have been deepened and 73 wells dug recently to add to the drinking water resources.

However, the underground water available in the district has more fluoride content than acceptable. As a result, at least 25 per cent of the population of Venput village in Ranj panchayat of Bali tehsil has developed health problems. The affected people are mostly in the 30-45 age group.

The government has sanctioned Rs. 1.85 crores for water supply schemes for 52 villages. Work on these schemes is likely to be completed by next year.

CSO: 4220/7821

SRINAGAR SOURCE REPORTS PAKISTAN BORDER ACTIVITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 May 81 p 1

[Text] May 16.

About a lakh civilians have been vacated forcibly from over 1,000 villages of the Pakistan side adjacent to the line of actual control in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

This has been done by top officials of the Pakistan defence forces to facilitate their ground, Air Force, artillery and armoured divisions' current round the clock exercises.

According to official reports reaching here today Pakistan's suicide squads have been undergoing tough mountain exercises. Army and Air Force personnel, right from the Karakoram ranges of Ladakh to Peer Panjal range of mountains in the Kashmir valley and other border areas have been getting training in guerilla warfare.

The Pakistani defence forces, according to these reports, have also recently constructed 96 new defence aerodromes and helipads adjacent to Indian borders in violation of the Simla agreement.

Training is imparted by Chinese Army officials. The main purpose of training these suicide squad guerillas and paratroopers, who look like Sikhs, Hindu Brahmins and Lamas of Ladakh is that they should be sent into Indian territory whenever there is any Indo-Pakistan conflict or war to create disaffection within Indian armed forces or to mislead them.

CSO: 4220/7814

MINISTRY ESTIMATES GRAIN TARGET MAY BE EXCEEDED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 May 81 p 5

[Text] The latest estimates from States show that wheat production in the current rabi will marginally surpass the target of 36 million tonnes, reports UNI.

Uttar Pradesh has exceeded its target substantially, while Punjab and Haryana have done very well despite the incidence of Karnal bunt and brown rust deesase [as published] in the parts of the State.

The States which have not done so well include Bihar, Maharashtra, and West Bengal, and also Rajasthan which has faced a widespread drought.

Meanwhile, wheat procurement has crossed three million tonnes. However, it is still lagging behind the performance recorded during the corresponding period last year, but was better than the preceding year, which was a year of record crop.

Against the arrivals of more than 3.3 million tonnes of wheat in the mandis, procurement to date is 3.2 million tonnes. During this period last year, procurement was 3.65 million tonnes, against arrivals of 3.79 million tonnes.

The State which has done well so far in procurement, compared to last year, is Uttar Pradesh. It has procured 475,000 tonnes against 318,000 tonnes last year. Punjab has procured a little less than two million tonnes, against 2.4 million tonnes last year, and Haryana 733,000 tonnes against 854,000 tonnes procured last year.

The Union Agriculture Ministry has asked the States to step up procurement so as to reach the target of 9.5 million tonnes.

The national target of wheat production for 1981-82 has been tentatively fixed at 38 million tonnes. The target was recommended by the Planning Commission after discussions with States on their annual plans. However, in view of the latest production figures, the Ministry feels there is a case for enhancing the target, particularly for the States which have now exceeded the production target.

CSO: 4220/7811

EXPERTS FEAR PROVISIONAL CENSUS MAY BE LOW

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 May 81 p 12

[Text] Speakers at a panel discussion on the "Implications for Planning" of the 1981 census expressed fear that the provisional population figures of the census might be an underestimation of the country's present population and stressed the urgency of family planning measures.

At the discussion held in the Capital on Friday, Dr Ashok Mitra of Jawaharlal Nehru University Mrs Rami Chhabra, of the Family Planning Foundation and Prof Ashish Bose of the Institute of Economic Growth said that the Government's claim that growth rate during the past decade had reduced by .05 per cent over the earlier one was inaccurate.

In fact, it was thought that the population migh [as published] have grown by .4 per cent and may at present stand at anything between 700-710 million, as opposed to the official figure of 684 million.

Mrs Chhabra said that the total debacle of family planning programmes over the past two years must form one of the most important guidelines to any policy formulation based on the census. "The consequences of the politicisation of the programme will be realised soon", she warned.

Calling for a complete overhaul of the family planning programme, Mrs Chhabra said that such a programme should be more human and "compassionate" rather than technocratic.

Quoting statistics of illegal abortions in the country, which she said stood at three to four million each year, Mrs Chhabra said that it was only the method of implementing the programme that had last credibility. [as published]

Referring to the proposal for "Health for all by 2000 AD", Dr Mitra asked whether this would be possible at the rate with which the population was increasing.

He also pointed out the anomalies between the census figures, family planning statistics and earlier population projections, and stressed the need for accurate data collection so that policy planning could be more realistic.

Focussing on the "alarming growth" in the general mortality rate and infant mortality rate in some areas, Prof Bose said that considerations such as these must

be kept in mind while assessing the overall population growth pattern and formulating future policies.

Member of the Planning Commission Dr M S Swaminathan, who presided over the discussion, assured the panelists that the Commission would undertake a sectorwise review of the sixth Plan in the light of the 1981 census figures. Stressing the importance of family planning measures, Dr Swaminathan said "No single agency can carry out such a programme", he emphasised.

CSO: 4220/7811

OBJECTIVES OF SLV-3 SATELLITE FLIGHT TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 81 p 6

[Article by V. G. Prasad Rao]

[Text] Shar (Sriharikota), May 17.

The first developmental flight of India's satellite launch vehicle (SLV 3-D 1), tentatively scheduled for May 22 from this vast island complex of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) off the Andhra coast, marks another stride in the country's space effort.

The elegant 23-metre-long, 17-tonne, pencil-shaped four-stage rocket will put a 38-kg. Rohini satellite (RS-D 1) into a low earth orbit, with its closest point about 296 km, and farthest point about 834km. Each orbit is expected to take 95 minutes. The spececraft [as published] has been designed to provide useful data for about 300 days.

This third flight of the SLV-3 is different from the two earlier experimental flights in many respects. The first one, on August 10, 1979, conceived as a sub-orbital flight with no payload, was a failure. After an impressive lift-off, the vehicle crashed into the Bay of Bengal following the first-stage separation. A malfunction in the reaction control system of the second stage caused the vehicle to veer away from the pre-fixed course.

Despite the failure of the mission, the valuable data in hand and the lessons learnt led to the successful flight of the second SLV-3 on July 18, 1980. For the first time, India put a 35-kg. Rohini satellite in a low elliptical orbit. The payload, however, was designed to serve the limited purpose of monitoring the performance of the vehicle's stage four, in addition to the house-keeping scientific experiments.

Other Objectives

The mission of the first developmental flight has other objectives. For the first time, the Rohini satellite will have a telecommand package aboard. Its objectives are: to develop and evaluate in orbit a space-worthy solid stage imaging (camera) system and obtain imageries (pictures) from it; to evolve a methodology for land-mark tracking and use the information along with other data to provide refined tracking parameters, and to use data for remote-sensing applications such as coastline studies and snow cover.

The solid state imaging system, called the landmark sensor, collects imagery line by line at every spin of the satellite, 80 such lines providing a picture frame of 250 km x 90 km with a resolution of one kilometre. The satellite transmits the data to the ground. Important landmarks whose co-ordinates are well known will form the points of reference.

Operational Status

From the developmental phase, the next step would lead logically to operational status for the SLV-3. Once operational, the rocket could become the workhorse for testing future ISRO payloads. The main projects of ISRO include the augmented satellite launch vehicle (ASLV), polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) and Indian remote sensing satellite (IRS).

The ASLV, based on the solid fuel SLV-3 as the core with minimum modifications and with two strap-on motors, will be capable of placing about 150 kg. payloads into near-earth orbits from Shar.

The PSLV project is a major programme aimed at the development of a satellite launch vehicle, with a liquid fuel second stage, capable of injecting a 600 kg. satellite into a polar sun-synchronous orbit. Dr. Vasant R. Gowariker, 48-year-old director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum, is confident that the VSSC would be ready with the liquid propellant in a few years. A testing facility for the liquid propellant is slated to come up soon in the Mahen [words illegible] in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu--at a convenient distance from Trivandrum.

Several ISRO centres--and a range of manufacturers in the public and private sectors--have contributed to the space effort. The VSSC provides the liquid propellants burnt in the 24 small engines (thrustors) used for controlling the vehicles in flight apart from manufacturing the four-stage rocket itself. Mr. Ved Prakash Sandlas, 36-year-old mission director of the developmental flight, is an electronics expert of the VSSC.

The Sriharikota range (Shar) manufactures the solid propellant for the SLV-3 and provides not only a wide range of testing facilities but also the telemetry, tracking and ground command stations. The Rohini satellite and its payloads are manufactured by the ISRO satellite centre at Bangalore. The space applications centre at Ahmedabad provides the S-band tracking systems (ground), telemetry antenna and telecommand transmitter. The auxiliary propulsion system unit provides the reaction control systems and the thrust vector control systems.

Col. Nilambar Pant, 50-year-old director of Shar, said that after a thorough check-out, first of the individual stage motors and sub-systems and after integration of the four stages and the satellite on a transporter, the vehicle would be moved to the launch pad five days before launch. The check-out operations are repeated after the vehicle is mated with the launcher, first in the horizontal position and after it is raised to the vertical position.

The final phase of count-down starts one day prior to the actual launch (T minus 23 hours). Based on wind condition, visibility and other factors the launch time is fixed for the morning hours. A computerised check-out and launch sequence is used 11 minutes before ignition of the first stage, when 600 vital parameters are checked.

The Rohini satellite will be tracked by the Shar, Car Nicobar island, Ahmedabad and Trivandrum ground stations of the ISRO. A transportable station has been set up in the Fiji islands to confirm whether the Rohini has been put in orbit. First information is expected some 95 minutes after lift-off--that is, after the completion of the first orbit.

The lift-off will be telecast live to Madras and Bombay by a microwave link.

PTI adds: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is likely to be present at the launch.

The coast guard, the civil aviation, the navy and the merchant fleet have been alerted to ensure clearance of the danger zones where the rocket's spent stages are likely to descend.

CSO: 4220/7817

FOREIGN MONEY REPORTEDLY BEHIND MASS CONVERSION

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 May 81 p 9

[Text]

MADRAS May 18

The reported mass conversion of Harijans into Muslims in Meenakshipuram in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu in February last was the result of undue influence bribery and the power of foreign money and not because of harassment by caste Hindus, according to a fact-finding committee of the Sarva Desh Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, supreme body of the Arya Samaj, which visited the village on Sunday.

The team composed of six top leaders of the sabha — Messrs. Ram Gopal Shal Vala (President) O. P. Tyagi (general secretary), Prithvi Singh, Vasdamatharam, Ramachandra Rao, B. Krishanlal and T. Narayan.

Briefing newsmen here today on their visit, the team members said that in Meenakshipuram, good relationship prevailed between caste Hindus and Harijans and they could see them mingle freely in a spirit of comradeship.

During their one-day stay in the village the members could talk to many persons, including some of the converts. Their information was that on the day of mass conversion (February 19), nearly 8,000 Muslims from nearby places in Tamil Nadu and Kerala as also a few non-Indian Muslims, arrived at Meenakshipuram and coerced most of the 800 Harijans in the village into embracing Islam.

Anti-Hindu activities: After the mass conversion, there was a feast for 7,000 persons and each convert was paid Rs 500. From what it gathered in the village, the committee was sure that money for the "anti-Hindu activities" had come from certain foreign countries trying to use the "so-called minorities in India to create an atmosphere favourable to them.

Congenial atmosphere: Asked why Meenakshipuram was chosen for the mass-conversion, they said the atmosphere there at that time was congenial for the act. Despite cordiality between caste Hindus and Harijans, the latter were entertaining the fear that responsibility for certain criminal offences reported earlier would be fixed on them. Muslim leaders took advantage of the situation and accomplished their objective by promising support, and in some cases using force, they said.

The committee was happy to note that some of the converts had returned to the Hindu fold when they realised that assistance would be forthcoming in case force was again used to make them change their faith. It expected more reconversions in the near future.

Charge against officials: The team members alleged that the Regional Director of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, deputed by the Central Government to go into the incident, was conducting his enquiry not from Meenakshipuram but from a nearby village, Parapoli. "We do not understand why he did not personally go to Meenakshipuram to ascertain the facts, and why he preferred to meet only those who came to him at Parapoli."

When they were in Meenakshipuram, they said, attempts being made by interested and influential persons to prevent the Harijan converts from going to the Director to give evidence.

Representatives of the committee would meet the Prime Minister and the Home Minister shortly and apprise her of their findings. They would request the Central Government to take immediate steps to check the flow of foreign money into India which, according to them, was being used for purposes like forced conversion and creating disunity in the country. They would also request the Centre to thoroughly investigate such incidents as they alleged mass conversions through use of force had taken place in Kohesr in Andhra Pradesh and just a few days ago at a village near Ramanathapuram.

CSO: 4220/7824

SIKKIM REVOLUTIONARY CONGRESS LEADER HELD

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 May 81 p 9

[Text]

GANGTOK, May 18.

Mr. Ram Chandra Poudyal, President of the Sikkim Congress (Revolutionary), the State's main Opposition party, was arrested by the police here on Sunday for alleged violation of a police order refusing permission to his party from holding a meeting in Bajar area.

Mr. Poudyal was later released on bail.

The police resorted to a lathi-charge to disperse the Congress (R) workers. In the resulting melee, some workers including Mr. Poudyal sustained minor injuries.

The East District Police Superintendent Mr. Madan Chettri told newsmen that despite the refusal of permission to hold the meeting the SCR tried to do so.

In a press release, the Congress (R) Secretary Mr. K. N. Upreti, said the ruling Sikkim Parishad had held four public meetings in the Bajar area in the recent past.

Though these meetings were disguised as receptions to the visiting Union Minister, the Opposition was made a target of attack by the Parishad leaders at these meetings. The Congress (R) wanted to hold its meetings in Bajar to reply to the charges levelled against it by the Parishad at these meetings and it was improper for the police to have refused permission.—Our Correspondent.

CSO: 4220/7824

OFFICER URGES LARGER BUDGET COMMITMENT FOR NAVY

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 May 81 p 8

[Article by Commodore Visvanathan]

[Text] When extracts from the Defence budget for 1981-82 under the headline "rise in Defence Capital spending" appeared in THE HINDU, a senior army officer expressed surprise that the capital outlay for the expansion of the Naval fleet was doubled to Rs. 143 crores. He considered this rather extravagant. The actual figure for the Navy's capital outlay is Rs. 183.31 crores.

Alfred Thayer Mahan, the naval historian of distinction, stressed the importance of sea power in the shaping of national destinies. He has listed among other factors, geographical position and the character of the government as vital factors in the achievement of sea power.

A high regard for the Navy has not been a feature of the post-Independence government. For over 20 years after Independence the Indian Navy has been the country's neglected service. The older generations were taught that the only threat to India was through the Khyber and Bolan passes. This early teaching and the post-1947 conflicts in which we were engaged fostered a continental outlook among the makers of defence policy. No serious thought was given to the need for protecting India's extensive maritime frontiers. There were not many with the vision of the late Sardar K. M. Panikkar. His was a voice in the wilderness. But geography has not lost its meaning.

The policy makers have been regarding appropriations for the Navy as a luxury. The allotment for the Navy in the 1962-63 defence budget before the outbreak of hostilities with China was a paltry 4.76 per cent. Even some senior army officers have doubted the wisdom of expenditure on naval forces. That land, sea and air forces will remain indispensable elements, even though the main effort in certain circumstances may be concentrated on land, was ignored.

A retired Lieutenant-General once wrote "Let us assume that our Navy has been able to sink the Pakistan Navy and the Air Force is able to bomb its WAH complex out of being. These would, of course, be grievous blows to Pakistan but would help us little, if at the end of the conflict we had lost Amritsar, Ferozepur, large parts of Fazilka and portions of Ganganagar districts or large areas in Rajasthan or Gujarat. Pakistan will then be able to dictate terms at the peace conference notwithstanding its naval and strategic losses." Why Delhi has been omitted from the list is not clear.

Much of this thinking is based on his belief "that a war with Pakistan will be a short one, for political pressures will force the combatants to a halt "sooner than later". [as published] The assumption appears to be that Queensbury rules will apply in a conflict with our neighbour and that we embark on a 15/20 days land war, certain that some of the influential occupants of the building on the banks of the Hudson river in New York will rush in to retrieve our chestnuts out of the fire. There may be a war of short intensity but not necessarily one of short duration.

Admittedly maritime considerations are not likely to be dominant in a short war or incident. Should a conflict become extended or lengthy much of the success of the antagonists will depend upon shipping. When there is a flare-up, the fleet will not be riding at anchor in Bombay but will be out engaged in the not so spectacular task of ensuring that our ships are not molested on their way in or out, at the same time preventing ships from reaching Karachi. It is essential to ensure that there is the least amount of disruption to the normal economic activities of a nation in times of war, even though confined to the land frontiers.

Without wanting to entertain ambitious dreams of grandeur to meet its maritime commitments, India needs a balanced Navy both in quantity and quality. A service that was tolerated and poorly financed for well over 20 years came in for some recognition about the end of 1965 when an in-depth analysis of the country's military strength and requirement was undertaken. Stated in simple terms, it was realised that coastal defence forces for the protection of our ports and harbours, ocean-going forces, three-dimensional in character and constituting the main strike force with provisions for escort were essential. The umbilical cord that bound the Indian Navy with the British Navy was cut. With Soviet assistance the period 1965-76 saw the replacement of aged ships and acquisition of new ones. The Navy became better balanced with some degree of muscle power.

When the Navy's share of the defence budget was increased from four per cent in 1971-72 to seven per cent in 1977-78, analysts attached to the Institute of Defence Studies suggested applying the brake. Reason: "Naval procurement with blue ocean capabilities are likely to cause alarm to some of India's neighbours. It would lead to concern in the Indian Ocean littoral countries and militate against proposals that the Indian Ocean be converted into a zone of peace".

Pakistan had expressed similar views earlier, i.e., "The Indian Ocean to be an effective zone of peace must be free from all the rivals of big powers, also from the domination and hegemony of the regional powers who have powerful navies of their own". The Shah was reigning and ruling at that time and these sentiments were not directed at Iran. The important point that expansion of the Indian Navy is not for hegemonistic purposes or to sweep the superpowers off the Indian Ocean or frighten the littoral countries but solely for the defence of our maritime interests, has been totally missed.

India has to contend with Pakistan. It is a more compact country after 1971. Freed from responsibilities for its eastern wing it will now concentrate its entire naval strength in the Arabian Sea and will keep India's fleet busy on the West. China poses no threat now, but possesses nuisance capabilities. In a decade or so we may have to take more serious note of China's naval activities.

Maritime security of the country does not begin and end with being able to cope with Pakistan and anyone being able to assist it.

The Bay of Bengal is an area of about 28 million square miles. The Andamans and Nicobars are the keys to the Bay of Bengal and were so regarded by the Japanese in World War II. They occupy a central position near the entrance to the Malacca straits along the sea trade routes of India, Burma, Bangladesh, S.-E. Asia and the Far East. The islands are of great strategic and economic importance and we must guard against foreign elements attempting a foothold. The waters around abound in fish and is the happy fishing ground of many fishermen from South East Asian countries. There is no Eastern Fleet at present of sufficient strength or numbers to cope with the responsibilities in the Bay as a whole.

The extension of the territorial seas to 12 miles and the contiguous zone to 24 miles has conferred on us rights and obligations. The exclusive economic zone of 200 miles confers on the State rights over the living and non-living resources of the seabed. The EEZ has brought some 20 lakh sq. metres of sea under our jurisdiction.

Extension of territorial waters while an asset also places an obligation to prevent unneutral acts in the waters of others. We have so far been helpless witnesses to acts of piracy by Soviet, Taiwanese and Thai trawlers exploiting our fishing grounds. Resources of the seabed have been a source of friction and dispute between countries and naval forces had to intervene. There have been cod, lobster and tuna wars. The fish was different but the issues were the same, i.e., one of jurisdiction and rights. All these factors have added new dimensions and increased the Navy's operational responsibilities. Importance of the sea as a source of power and dispute has increased.

The year 1972 saw the commissioning of the Indian built Leander class ship Nilgiri. Since then we have not looked back in building frigates. It is to the lasting credit of the personnel of Mazagaon dock that in the later ships of the series there have been several improvements in design, particularly with regard to surface-to-air missiles--not contemplated by the British designers of this class.

While details of the expenditure on capital outlay are not available it is hoped that plans are afoot for setting up the infrastructure to build submarines. It is of no consequence whether the nationality of the submarine to be built is West European or Soviet. The important thing is to make a start.

Considering the growing tasks and responsibilities of the Navy an allotment of a little over nine per cent of the defence budget--Rs. 291.86 crores on revenue account and Rs. 183.31 crores on capital account--cannot be considered extravagant. The steady increase in the allotment for the Navy nearly makes up for years of neglect in the past. If like Oliver Twist the Navy "asks for more" the taxpayer should not grudge an extra spoon of porridge.

CSO: 4220/7824

CONSTRUCTION OF 7,000 FOOD WAREHOUSES PLANNED

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 May 81 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, May 17.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is launching, with World Bank assistance, a massive storage project for farmers along with provisions for cold storage and potato marketing.

The NCDC-II project, will create an additional storage capacity of 19.52 lakh tonnes at a cost of Rs. 136 crores during the five-year period (1981-82 to 1985-86).

This Project also envisages the establishment of 127 cooperative cold stores at a cost of Rs. 74 crores and will create 5.8 lakh tonnes of additional capacity. The share of the World Bank's financial assistance in this project will be nearly Rs. 100 crores which is about 47 per cent of its total cost of Rs. 210 crores.

The NCDC Managing Director, Mr. V. B. L. Mathur, told pressmen that under the NCDC-II project, 7,000 godowns with a capacity of 9.85 lakh tonnes in the rural areas and 971 godowns having a capacity of 9.67 lakh tonnes at the Mandi level, would be established.

The capacity of these godowns would vary from 100 to 5,000 tonnes. Andhra Pradesh would have the maximum number of 3,100 godowns with a total capacity of 3.25 lakh tonnes. Punjab will have 1699 godowns but with a much larger total storage capacity of 8 lakh tonnes. Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar would respectively have 1,763, 1,260 and 149 godowns with a capacity of 4.73 lakh tonnes, 1.39 lakh tonnes and 2.15 lakh tonnes.

Service centres: Mr. Mathur said the cooperative godowns would function as decentralised, coordinated rural service centres. These godowns would be constructed over a period of five years starting from the current year. They would provide the farmer fertilizers, various other inputs and essential consumer goods and also help him store his marketable surplus.

The NCDC is already implementing two storage projects, one with funds from the IDA and the other with aid from the EEC. Launched in 1978-79 the IDA storage project, covering Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Orissa, will set up 8,654 godowns creating an additional storage capacity of 10.93 lakh tonnes. The EEC aided project, launched in 1979-80 covering Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, will help construct 6,871 godowns with a capacity of 7.84 lakh tonnes.

The potato storage cum marketing project would benefit six States namely Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab where 127 cold stores of 4,000 tonnes capacity each, would be set up.

The cold stores would enable farmers market potato and other perishables advantageously by avoiding distress sales at the harvest time and help them secure economic prices.

CSO: 4220/7819

ASEAN SAID TO WANT RAO TO ATTEND MANILA PARLEY

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 May 81 p 6

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, May 17

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers are quite keen that the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, should participate in their meeting in Manila next month which will be attended by the chairman of the EEC, the U.S. Secretary of State and senior Ministers from Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

A dialogue was initiated by them about this time in Kuala Lumpur last year to set the ball rolling for increased economic cooperation between ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries in mutual interest.

The meeting that is now being called in Manila on June 19 and 20 is described as a post-conference dialogue to carry forward the broad areas of agreement that had emerged from the Kuala Lumpur conference.

The External Affairs Minister had accepted the invitation to attend the first meeting last year but he had to cancel his visit at the last moment because of his mother's illness at that time.

Though some official-level discussions between India and the ASEAN countries had subsequently taken place, there were no ministerial-level talks on the political and economic aspects of the proposed cooperation between ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries invited to this conference.

So it would be rather odd for India to participate in the post-conference dialogue without having taken part in the initial discussions which set out the purpose and scope of the cooperation.

Mr. Narasimha Rao, intended to visit the five ASEAN countries, Sri Lanka and Vietnam in June, but the trip had to be cancelled because of his impending visit to Pakistan and the arrival of the Chinese Foreign Minister for talks on Sino-Indian relations.

The Government has to decide whether it would be more appropriate for India to discuss separately with each one of the five countries the prospects for increased cooperation, before engaging in any group discussions with them.

At the moment it might appear to be rather odd if India were to participate in the post-conference dialogue without having been a party to any of the decisions reached at last year's conference. But the political compulsions outweigh the procedural niceties in deciding whether India should or should not accept the ASEAN invitation.

Additional advantage: An additional advantage in accepting the invitation is that it will provide an excellent opportunity for Mr. Narasimha Rao to have some candid exchanges with the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Alexander Haig, on the wider implications of the American bid to arm Pakistan. [as published]

It is all the more important that he should not let go this occasion, since Gen. Haig is combining his participation in the ASEAN meeting with visits to China and Japan.

The U.S. has been taking a greater interest in ASEAN affairs after the Kampuchean episode. It had also been encouraging the EEC to pay more attention to increased economic cooperation with this strategically located group of nations.

The former Secretary of State, Mr. Edmund Muskie, was very particular last year that Mr. Narasimha Rao should attend the Kuala Lumpur conference, so that they could meet and exchange views over various developments, especially the events in Afghanistan.

There is no indication whether the Reagan administration is equally interested in strengthening the ASEAN without attempting to building it up as a bastion against the spread of Soviet influence in the South-East Asian region. But the U.S. is not pursuing a policy of deliberately discouraging any closer understanding with India in the mistaken belief that it might indirectly subserve the Soviet cause.

The External Affairs Ministry is awaiting Mr. Narasimha Rao's return from Caracas on May 24 before taking a final view whether India should participate in the Manila meeting as one of the special invitees along with the EEC, U.S., Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

One view is that he should make it convenient to attend this meeting, since it is vitally important for India to establish a closer rapport with the ASEAN to discourage renewed foreign interferences in the region.

CSO: 4220/7819

NEW SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY IN WEST BENGAL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 May 81 p 3

[Text] Arrival organization of the organization of the CPI-dominated Indo-Soviet Cultural Society has been set up in West Bengal with the Congress(I) M.P., Mr Deviprosad Chattopadhyaya, as chairman and Mr Satindranath Chakravorty general secretary.

The new organization, Friends of the Soviet Union, spearheaded by the Congress(I) and the All-India Communist Party, seeks to set up a broader organization than the ISCUS "beyond the bounds of narrow partisan politics."

While the FSU's 25-member executive committee includes a number of Congress(I) and AICP leaders, its advisory board includes Mr Sankar Prosad Mitra, Mr Nihar Ranjan Ray and Mr Premendra Mitra. A 100-member council is likely to be set up with people drawn from all walks of life.

Denying a reporter's suggestion that the move was aimed at cornering the CPI, Mr Chattopadhyaya said it was in the interest of the nation that there should be more friends of the Soviet Union.

CSO: 4220

MORE BATTALIONS FOR WEST BENGAL BORDER FORCES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 May 81 p 1

[Text] The Centre has sanctioned five more battalions for the Border Security Force in West Bengal, the Chief Secretary, Mr A. K. Sen, said in Calcutta on Tuesday. However, informed sources said it would take some time for the battalions to be actually deployed along the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal.

Mr Sen who was briefing reporters after a conference of State Government and BSF officials to review the crime situation in the border areas, said the Centre had also been requested to sanction two additional flotilla of vessels to maintain a vigil along the riverine borders. Each flotilla consists of a big launch and two speed boats.

The conference discussed at length ways in which infiltration from Bangladesh to West Bengal could be stopped. In 1978 over 2,000 such infiltrators had been pushed back and the figure for the first four months of this year was stated to be 821. The Chief Secretary felt, however, that many more had actually crossed into West Bengal.

In this connexion, he said there were reports that a section of Bangladesh officials were instigating those people who had been deported from Assam "to re-infiltrate into India through West Bengal". There are over 400,000 non-Bengali Muslims in Bangladesh (known popularly as "Biharis") and they feature prominently in the lists of those who have been pushed back at the border. In the past three years, a number of Burmese Muslims had also tried to cross over into West Bengal through Bangladesh, the Chief Secretary said.

At Tuesday's conference, BSF officials mentioned 23 points along the State's border with Bangladesh where they felt police outposts ought to be set up. The Chief Secretary said the Inspector-General of Police had been asked to consider this. The conference also felt there should be joint interrogation of suspects held at the border by the BSF and the local police.

The Chief Secretary said the performance of the BSF had improved since 1978. In that year, smuggled goods worth Rs 30 lakhs had been seized, the value rising to Rs 1 crore in 1980. Till April this year, goods worth Rs 46 lakhs were seized at the border. Mr Sen quoted statistics to show that activities of Bangladesh criminals have been on the decline since 1978.

A source in the Indian Navy said in Calcutta on Tuesday that the situation around the New Moore Island in the Sunderbans was not alarming. "The Navy, however, is keeping a close watch on the area", the source added.

CSO: 4220/7826

VIETNAMESE ENVOY SPEAKS AT SOLIDARITY MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 May 81 p 10

[Text] The convening of an international conference on Kampuchea, at a time when China was creating tension in South East Asia, would be detrimental to peace in the region, said South Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Quang Tao.

Mr Nguyen was speaking at a meeting organised by All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation in the Capital on Wednesday to commemorate the 91st birth anniversary of late President Ho Chi Minh.

The international conference was ill-timed, the Ambassador said, because Chinese authorities were trying to push the Indochinese and ASEAN countries into confrontation and undermining the dialogue between the two countries.

During the past few days, the Chinese had intensified their military provocations, land-grabbing activities and violation of Vietnam's territory on land and sea, the Ambassador alleged.

They had not given up their designs to annex Vietnam, to turn it into a satellite within their reactionary orbit, and to use it as a springboard to conquer South East Asia, Mr Nguyen pointed out.

The Vietnamese people, however, had almost healed the wounds of war and restored the economy, with 16 million of the 50 million inhabitants having access to various streams of education. The Republic's constitution guaranteed the people's right of collective mastery and equality between man and man.

Tracing the history of aggressions and instability in the region, Mr Nguyen said, the main cause of tension lay in the policy of aggression and intervention by imperialists and colonialists during the last 90 years.

Confronted with common enemies many times their size the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, had no other way but to unite and fight together against foreign intervention.

The meeting was presided over by Dr Namwar Singh of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

CSO: 4220/7827

WEAKNESSES IN WEST BENGAL COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT TOLD

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 May 81 p 3

[Text] The cooperative movement in West Bengal has not been very successful, Mr Ashok Mitra, State Finance Minister, said in Hooghly on Saturday. He was speaking at a foundation laying ceremony of a cooperative cold storage in the Polba-Dadpur block. Often mahajans and other rich people in the village areas infiltrated into cooperative societies and upset such endeavours, he added. The farmers who owned all the shares of this cooperative cold storage must be cautious about such infiltration, Mr Mitra said.

This is the third cooperative cold storage in the entire district among nearly 65 cold storages. The State Government was trying to set up more cooperative cold storages in this potato growing district but the people must respond adequately to such efforts, he added.

At the initial stage the farmers and villages were enthusiastic, but, subsequently, the cooperatives were mismanaged Mr Mitra felt. As a result, setting up of this cooperative cold storage meant more responsibility on the farmers, he added.

A State Government official said not even 25% of the total produce of potatoes in the State could be kept at the cold storages. The State Government was keen on building more cold storages in the potato-growing districts and, as such, had allotted Rs 22.5 crores under the Sixth Plan. The Government wanted that 40% of the cold storages should be run by cooperative societies. Twenty cold storages were now under construction in different districts and 45 more would be set up, the official said.

Mr A. K. Bose, chief general manager of the State Bank of India, which had extended major financial assistance for the storage, said that the bank had found inadequacy of storage facilities in this potato-growing belt.

It was observed that while several private entrepreneurs availed themselves of the load facilities from the State Bank, the National Cooperative Development Corporation and the State Government, construction of cold storages in the cooperative sector was not much in evidence. He laid emphasis on the speedy completion of the cold storage so that the money was not blocked. He assured more help for the endeavour.

The State Bank has given financial assistance of Rs 1.27 crores to 2,300 farmers in Hooghly district for growing and storage of potatoes this year. The Bank has financed construction of 15 cold storages in the district. The Polba-Dadpur cooperative cold storage will have a capacity of storing 4,00,000 tons of potatoes. The construction is likely to be completed next year.

CSO: 4220/7823

INDIAN OIL CORPORATION TO RECEIVE SOVIET OIL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 May 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 18: The Soviet Union will supply to India during the current year significantly larger quantities of crude oil and petroleum products. A Rs. 1100-crore contract to this effect was signed between the two countries at Moscow on May 14.

Under the contract, the Soviet Union will supply to this country 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil, 1.3 million tonnes of kerosene and 9.5 lakh tonnes of high speed diesel oil.

Before the conclusion of this agreement, an official delegation from the commerce ministry to Moscow had come to an agreement with the Soviet authorities with regard to the commodities that would be exported to that country in exchange for oil and petroleum products.

An interesting feature of the contract that has been signed between the Indian Oil Corporation and Soujeneff-Export (USSR) is that the Soviet Union will supply the crude and products to this country from the Gulf area which would result in a substantial saving on freight. In case of any dislocation in supplies from the Gulf area, the Soviet Union would release supplies through the Black Sea.

The agreement on behalf of India was signed by the IOC chairman, Mr. C. R. Dasgupta, and on behalf of the Soviet Union by Mr. Kharlamov, vice-president of Soujeneft-Export.

CSO: 4220/7821

INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRIES REPORT PRODUCTION RISE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 May 81 p 5

[Text] Six infrastructure industries--electricity, coal, saleable steel, petroleum refinery products, crude petroleum and cement--recorded a rise of 18.5 per cent in production during April 1981 over the same period last year.

This rise in production of these industries, which together account for a weight of 23.3 per cent in the general index number of industrial production, range between 3.6 per cent in coal and 56.6 per cent in crude petroleum.

During January-April this year there was an increase of about 17 per cent in production of these six industries over the corresponding period a year ago. The rise in production varied between 13 per cent in coal and about 51 per cent in crude petroleum.

Percentage increase during January-April 1981 over corresponding period last year is: electricity 13.1, coal 13.0, saleable steel 18.3, petroleum refinery products 14.9, crude petroleum 50.9 and cement 15.2.

CSO: 4220/7827

WHEAT PROCUREMENT REPORTED BELOW TARGET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 May 81 p 4

[Text] Only 39 per cent of the targeted 9.5 million tonnes of wheat has so far flowed into the kitty of the procurement agencies in the country this season, reports PTI.

This has been attributed by the official sources to slow arrival of wheat because of late harvesting and unseasonal rains. The farmers are apparently holding their stocks in the hope of getting higher prices later.

The official figures suggest that the market arrivals till now had been 3.92 million tonnes as against 4.33 million tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

Of the 3.92 million tonnes, about 3.73 million tonnes of wheat had been procured by the Food Corporation of India, State Governments and other agencies.

Procurement of wheat in the last marketing season had touched 5.8 million tonnes. However, no target was fixed for 1980-81 because of severe drought in various parts.

A target of 9.5 million tonnes was apparently set this year as wheat production in the country was expected to be an all time high of 36 million tonnes.

There was considerable shortfall in arrivals of wheat in mandis of Punjab and Haryana, the granary belt. Surprisingly, the trend had been reversed in Uttar Pradesh.

About 5.78 lakh tonnes of wheat had been procured in the State so far as compared with 3.36 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

In Punjab, about 2.36 million tonnes of wheat had arrived in mandis so far as against 2.9 million tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

The maximum open market price of wheat per quintal had touched Rs 340 in Maharashtra, Rs 217 in Delhi, Rs 185 in Bihar and Rs 170 in Haryana.

CSO: 4220/7827

AIR CHIEF URGES INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 May 81 p 9

[Text] Bangalore, May 19.--Air Chief Marshal I. H. Latif hopes the Indian Air Force will ultimately be able to come out of predominantly import-oriented programme of modernization and rely basically on the indigenous aircraft industry.

Inaugurating the hybrid computer-controlled Fatigue life evaluation facility at the National Aeronautics Laboratory here today, Air Marshal B. Chauhan, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief headquarters training command, read out the speech of the Air Chief who could not be present due to unavoidable circumstances.

Pointing out that the indigenous aircraft industry symbolized the country's hope and aspirations for determined march towards self reliance, the Air Chief said over the years the Air Force had fully recognized this fact and had not only set from time to time appropriate tasks for the industry but given overriding priority to reequipment plans based on the support from the national industry.

"We have always been happy and indeed proud to fly the indigenous aircraft--the Marutu, the Kirans, the Gnat and the Ajeets. Even for our future requirements, priority had been given to design and development programmes to be taken up by the indigenous industry for this advanced designs might be requisitioned from abroad, the Air Chief Marshal said. [as published] The decision was taken with an eye to the "overall security perspective and imperative need to ensure operational preparedness".

The Maruts and Kiran, the Air Chief said, were important steps in the direction of relying on indigenous aircraft industry.

Air Chief Marshal Latif said the Air Force had sponsored the advanced strike aircraft project in the early seventies and followed it up with HF 25 and now the light combat aircraft.

Stating that there was no time to loss [as published] in recognizing and squarely facing the shortcomings and weak areas, particularly in respect of design and development and quality control in the aeronautics industry and taking remedial measures, the Air Chief expressed confidence that the National Aeronautics Industry would prove worthy of the challenging tasks the Air Force and the nation had set before it.

Referring to the Fatigue testing facility developed at the National Aeronautics Laboratory the Air Chief Marshal said the Fatigue measurement of the MIG 21 airframe on which the laboratory had embarked was of immediate importance to the Air Force.

Commending the key role being played by the National Aeronautics Laboratory as a premier research institution in the field of aeronautics, the Air Chief said one of its most valuable contributions made to the operational capability of the Air Force was the part played in designing and fabricating models. "The task was undertaken and accomplished in record time and the results have been so very satisfactory that they have been acclaimed by the manufacturers themselves".

CSO: 4220/7826

ENERGY MINISTER TELLS TROUBLES OF COAL MINES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 May 81 p 4

[Text] Calcuatta, May 11. Union Minister for Energy A B A Ghani Khan Choudhury told a press conference here today that the eight new coal mines under the Eastern Coalfields Limited, with the prospect of 24.2 million tonnes of annual production, could not be worked because of the "deteriorating law and order situation" in West Bengal. There were 13 more coal mines similarly affected in the State.

He said that in 1983, some Soviet experts who had come to help the coal industry had to return because of the hostile demonstration by certain elements at Jhanjhra and Narkundar in Burdwan district. The demonstrators were demanding jobs when the mines would start working. Obviously the experts could not assure them of their demands.

Mr Khan Choudhury informed that in the year 1980-81 Rs 85 crore was allocated for developing mines in the State, most of which could not be utilised. Again in 1981-82 Rs 100 crore was allocated for the same purpose.

Besides law and order problem, the other problem in the State (as in Bihar) was the land acquisition by the State Government. In the State the Government could acquire and handover 68 acres of land to the ECL while the requirement was for 1,400 acres.

In Bihar 100 acres of land were made available against the requirement of 7,000 acres. With regard to the Dankuni project, the State Government was yet to acquire land.

However, the Minister said, all the State Government excepting the Uttar Pradesh, were so far unable to acquire land for CIL. The basic problem facing them was the question of compensation for the displaced. The Union Minister already has made provisions in this regard so that every State could get fund to meet the compensation. Besides this the other problem was that of job demands for those who would be displaced. Mr Khan Choudhury felt that this problem could only be solved through discussions between the CIL and the concerned State Governments.

Still he felt, the problems in Bihar and West Bengal were acute because the people were more dependent on land in these two States.

Mr Khan Choudhury said that there still remained the problem of railway transport. The Energy Ministry therefore was contemplating for the slurry system which however was highly expensive. The other alternative could be the development of the river transportation system.

Mr Khan Choudhury informed the newsmen during the last year there was an increase in power generation by 20 per cent on average in the whole country.

CSO: 4220

PROBLEMS OF DISTRIBUTION OF COAL IN SOUTH NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 May 81 p 8

[Article by N. N. Sachitanand: "Feed South With Coal"]

> [Text] The Southern States may get 11.5 million tonnes of coal from Singareni for the current year against the demand of 15 million tonnes. The Railways and shipping are unable to move the balance requirements from Coal India's mines. A number of steps are required to be taken to feed south with coal.

After stagnating for three years at the 104 million tonne level, the annual production of coal in the country picked up last year (1980-81) to 114 million tonnes and, from present indications, the target this year of 121 million tonnes is achievable. Unfortunately, this boost in the output of coal has not benefited proportionately the consumers in the South.

The problem here is one of logistics. The current year's demand for non-coking coal in the four Southern States is about 15 million tonnes. Of this, the Singareni Collieries, the only coal producer in the South, may supply 11.5 million tonnes. That leaves around 3.5 million tonnes to be transported to the South from Coal India's mines in Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. These mines are anywhere between 1,000 and 2,000 km from the consuming centres in the South.

The Railways are unable to fill the bill due to various reasons. They have an inadequate wagon fleet. (In 1980 the Railways could allot only 40 per cent of the number of wagons Coal India had programmed for moving coal to the South). Their operational efficiency is still low, resulting in a high wagon turnaround time and lower wagon availability. Their broad gauge network is rather thin in the South, necessitating time-consuming transshipment from broad to metre gauge to a substantial number of consumers in this region. Worst of all, the vital track linking Bengal-Bihar to the South along the East Coast is prone to damage for six months in a year due to both the monsoons and frequent cyclones in the Orissa and Andhra Pradesh coastal areas.

But for the alternative of road transport, coal consumers in the South would be having a tough time.

The table alongside gives an indication of how dependent on road transport coal consumers in the South have become, despite the over three times difference in freight rates.

Transport of Hard Coke (in '000 tonnes)

Period	Tamil Nadu	Karnataka	A. P.	Kerala
(April-Dec.)	Rail/Road	Rail/Road	Rail/Road	Rail/Road
1979	14.2/1.2	14.6/0.5	2.9/0	26.0/5.7
1980	9.2/9.9	4.1/5.3	2.2/0.2	20.8/8.9

Failure of Sea Route

The much-touted sea-cum-rail route via Haldia has turned out to be a damp squib. With a projected capacity to handle 3 to 3.5 million tonnes of coal a year, the spanking new Haldia port has not been able to do better than 700,000 tonnes in 1980-81.

The reasons are well known: frequent failure of the sophisticated equipment, (due to manufacturing defects and poor maintenance) endemic labour trouble, political strife in the area creating law and order problems and inefficient management.

It is also a fact that there is inadequate availability of coastal shipping. As a result of the failure of the sea-route, the Tuticorin thermal power station could have a problem of optimum generation. Against its daily requirement of 5,000 tonnes, it is receiving only 45,000 tonnes a month of sea-borne coal from Haldia.

How To Improve Supply

In order to improve the supply of coal to the South, the following steps are required to be taken:

(1) The underground Chanda mine in Madhya Pradesh is an important source of supply to the South. It is difficult to increase the production quickly from these mines since they are highly water bearing. The large open cast mine being developed close to it is meant for the new superthermal station nearby.

What can be done is to divert to the South the industrial grade coal now being sent from the Chanda mine to Western India. The latter can be supplied its requirements from the Chirimiri mines near Korba. This diversion can increase the supply of coal to the South by 1 to 1.5 million tonnes annually.

Dumps at Key Locations

(2) Coal India will have to open some dumps at strategic places in the South, located on the broad gauge network. Hospet is a suitable location for a dump in Karnataka. From this dump, consumers in North Karnataka, especially the Bhadravati-Shimoga industrial complex, Bellary, Hubli-Dharwar, Dandeli, Karwar, Raichur, Gulbarga and Belgaum can be served.

The present broad gauge link to Hospet from the Western Coalfields runs thus: Chandrapur-Balharshah-Kazipet-Hyderabad-Wadi-Guntakal-Hospet. From the Central Coalfields, the link is Talcher-Waltair-Vijayawada-Kazipet-Hyderabad-Wadi-Guntakal-Hospet.

If Guntur and Guntakal were connected by a broad gauge line, the distance involved in the above links could be halved. In addition, if the work on the conversion of the Bangalore--Guntakal line into broad gauge is hastened (this is now scheduled to be completed only by late 1982 at the present pace of work). Coal India could conveniently feed another dump in Bangalore which could supply consumers in Mysore, Tumkur, Davangere and other points.

(3) Waltair is a common junction for coal rakes being moved from the Eastern and Central Coalfields of Coal India. The station is turning out to be a bottleneck. When the Visakhapatnam steel plant comes on stream, this bottleneck could assume serious proportions. It is time the Railways thought about a loop line for coal rakes to avoid the station.

(4) One of the problems in increasing supply from the Western Coalfields is the track capacity of South Central Railway which is limited to 80 wagons a day. This needs to be enhanced since Central Railway can feed 120 wagons a day of coal into the SC Railway, after meeting the needs of Maharashtra's power stations.

(5) The South Eastern Railway, which handles coal from the Bengal-Bihar region to the South, operates engines which can haul only a 50-wagon rake. Other railways, such as Northern Railway, have now graduated to using locos which can haul 70-wagon coal rakes. If necessary bigger horsepower locos should be imported for the South Eastern Railway.

Contingency Dumps

(6) Because of frequent track damage along the East Coast trunk route caused by floods and cyclones, some contingency dumps have to be opened inland, along the broad gauge rail junctions. These dumps should be stocked during fair weather and drawn upon only when the main trunk route is disrupted.

(7) Piece rake movement of coal should be avoided totally, till the Railways can overcome their wagon shortage. An inter-modal transport system should be arranged wherein dumps can be supplied by rake loads and small consumers, within a 400 km radius can pick up their requirements by trucks. The basic idea behind this is to reduce not only part rake movements but short distance rail movements also.

(8) For improving the sea-cum-rail route, besides the obvious step of improving the performance at Haldia, it may be necessary to introduce an incentive scheme to encourage more coastal shipping by small operators.

It would, of course, be ideal if the Singareni Collieries could be made to enhance their output to meet the total demands of the South. But the problem here is that the coal in these mines lies at a depth of 500 ft. and below and in rather thin seams of 10 to 15 ft.

Basically, only underground mining is possible here and underground mines take time to be developed. Moreover, their output cannot match those of open cast mines.

The Planning Commission has proposed a capital investment of Rs 220 crores during the Sixth Plan to increase Singareni's output to 17 million tonnes per annum by 1984-85. But, by then the demand in the South will also have increased to over 21 million tonnes per year. There is thus no alternative to improving the logistics of transporting coal to the South from Coal India's mines. And that is where the Railways come in.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

MYSORE KANNADA CONFERENCE--Bangalore, May 12--The first world Kannada conference will be held in Mysore in November 1982. The Karnataka government has constituted a high-power committee, with the chief minister as chairman, to chalk out the programme for the conference. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 81 p 12]

JANAVADI (DEMOCRATIC) PARTY--The Janavadi (Democratic) Party led by Mr Chandrajit Yadav has decided not to have any truck with the Bharatiya Janata Party in the coming by-elections, reports PTI. It would not support candidates supported by or having any kind of adjustment with the BJP, Mr Yadav told newsmen. His party was for all left and secular forces fielding common candidates. Mr Yadav announced the appointment of three general secretaries of the party. Maulana S A Hashmi, MP, Mr Chhangur Ram, MP and Mr Vasudeva Rao. He said a 31-member executive had also been constituted, prominent members being: Mr Banarsi Das, Mr H K Srivastava, MLA (UP), Mr Rama Arangannal, Mr G A Swami and Mr Govindarajan (Tamilnadu), Mr Swarnakumar (Kerala), Rao Gajraj Singh (Haryana), Sampat Singh (Rajasthan), Mr Jagannath Yadav (Madhya Pradesh) and Prof H K Saini (Delhi). [Excerpts] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 May 81 p 4]

UTTAR PRADESH OPPOSITION--Lucknow, May 12--Six Opposition parties in the State, including Janata Party, Janvadi Party of Mr Chandrajeet Yadav, Congress-U Socialist of Mr Raj Narain and DSF have formed a coordination committee for the by-elections to sponsor common candidates and to jointly campaign for them. The coordination committee has decided to support DSF leader H N Bahuguna in Garhwal Parliamentary constituency. It has adopted Mr Fazabul Bari of Muslim Majlis as coordination committees candidate in Amethi, where Mr Rajiv Gandhi is contesting as Congress-I nominee. For Allhaabad it has selected Mr Raneshwar Mishra a lieutenant of Raj Narain. The committee will decide the candidates for Bareilly and Mirzapur Parliamentary constituencies tomorrow. The committee has adopted former Chief Minister Ram Naresh Yadav as its candidate in Bisauli (district Badaun) Assembly constituency. It further decided to field former Janata Party Minister in UP, J P Bose, as its nominee to contest against Chief Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh in Tindwari Assembly constituency. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 May 81 p 7]

STATE CONGRESS-U CHIEFS--Bangalore, May 20 (UNI)--Mr D B Chandre Gowda was today unanimously re-elected president of the Karnataka PCC-U. Ahmedabad: Dr Thakorebhai Patel was unanimously reelected as Gujarat PCC-U chief. Mr Chhaganbhai Bharvad and Mr Jamnashankar Pandya were elected vice-presidents of the 22-member executive committee. Former Union Minister Hitendra Desai was among those elected. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 May 81 p 1]

LATIF FLIES MIG-23--Air Chief Marshal I H Latif, Chief of the Air Staff, flew the MiG-23, tactical swing-wing fighter bomber at a forward airbase in the Western sector on Wednesday, reports PTI. After a 30-minute sortie with Wing Commander R N Bamzai, Commander of the Flying Daggers, the first MiG-23 squadron of the air foce. [as published] The Air Chief said with this new weapon system in their hands the squadron pilots would earn fresh laurels and enhance the prestige and fire power of the air force. Earlier, the Chief of the Air Staff went round the squadron and discussed operational and maintenance aspects of flying this new aircraft with the pilots and the technical crew. During his visit to the squadron, Air Chief Marshal Latif was accompanied by Air Marshal J R Bhasin, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Air Command. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 May 81 p 7]

RSS CADRE TRAINING--Nagpur, May 14 (CNS)--The composition of the RSS officers training camp, which was inaugurated here on 12 May shows its all-India ramification. This is the final and the third year camp for its officers. Such camps are held only in Nagpur. Nearly 650 hardened RSS top functionaries who have already passed through the previous two camps are admitted here. The camp here was inaugurated by RSS chief boudhik Sudarshanji. The participants include 70 from Kerala and about a dozen each from as far away places as Manipur and Goa. There are also cadres from West Bengal and some other States. Simultaneously, it is reported that another camp of 1015 trainees is being held at Kanhanged in Kerala. This is for district and State-level cadres. According to informed sources, this year, the RSS will train about 11,000 cadres through first and second years camps throughout the country. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 May 81 p 4]

GRANT FROM SWEDEN--New Delhi, May 15.--India will receive assistance of Rs 120 crores from Sweden for a two-year period (1981-83). An agreement was signed here today by the Ambassador, Mr Tom Tschering, and Mr A. G. Asrani, joint secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, on behalf of their respective Governments, it was announced here today. Out of the total assistance, Rs 60 crores will be available in 1981-82. Of this, Rs 17 crores have been earmarked for general imports. This portion of the aid is free from any condition and can be used for imports from any part of the world to India's best advantage. A provision of Rs 21.8 crores has been made for importing goods and services from Sweden. As in the past, this amount will be used for the import of bulk commodities and capital goods and services. The agreement provides for programme and project support to the extent of Rs 12.7 crores. This will be used for technical cooperation mainly in the fields of health and family welfare, forestry, drinking water supply, fisheries, ground water development and non-formal education. The assistance is a grant. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 May 81 p 9]

NAVAL DOCKYARD WHARF--Bombay, May 13--A fitting out wharf at the Naval Dockyard here was inaugurated today by Vice-Admiral M. P. Awaiti, flag officer commanding-in-chief, Western Naval Command. The wharf provides facilities for ships of up to 20,000 tonnes to come alongside. With its commissioning, the berthing and repair facility being provided for ships of the Indian Navy in the Naval Dockyard has improved greatly. The 320-metre-long, 22-metre-wide fitting out wharf has been constructed by Indian engineers at a cost of about Rs 2.5 crores in 30 months. Admiral Awaiti said the Naval Dockyard had undergone a sea change in the last three decades, transforming itself from a glorified repair yard to a full-fledged naval dockyard. The use of the term "fitting out" in the name could, however, be really justified when the wharf was equipped to build vessels. That was a long way off. The Admiral said that the wharf would be in service early next year, but would be fit enough to provide a home for INS Mysore during the monsoon. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 81 p 5]

LABOR LEADER DIES--Bombay, May 14--Mr B. R. Dandavate, well-known labour leader and president-elect of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, died last night following a massive heart attack. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son. Mr Dandavate, who was in his late forties, was elected president of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha at its Cochin session only a few weeks ago. He was the general secretary of the Bombay Municipal Workers' Union founded by Mr George Fernandes in 1955 and had been in the forefront of the labour movement in Bombay for the past two decades. He was also associated with the Bombay Labour Union and several other labour bodies. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 81 p 21]

NEW NIO DIRECTOR--Panaji, May 14 (UNI)--Dr V. V. R. Varadachari, deputy director of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) today took over as the director from Dr S. Z. Qasim, who has been appointed secretary, department of environment, government of India. Dr Varadachari is an eminent physical oceanographer and a fellow of the Indian National Academy and the Indian Academy of Sciences. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 May 81 p 21]

CEMENT IMPORT PLANS--The Government has decided to import two million tonnes of cement during 1981-82 to meet partly the anticipated shortage of five million tonnes. A similar quantity was imported during 1980-81. But the landed cost of imported cement this year will be Rs. 825 a tonne against Rs. 631 last year. The indigenous production this year is expected to be stepped up to 24 million tonnes which would still leave a gap of five million tonnes in the estimated consumption. But the Government hopes to meet the shortage partly through imports and partly through curtailment of domestic consumption. [By G. K. Reddy] [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 May 81 p 1]

NEWSPRINT FROM PRC--New Delhi, May 15. After a lapse of more than 18 years since the Indo-China conflict in 1962, India will be importing nearly 5,000 tonnes of newsprint from China this year. The State Trading Corporation is already holding negotiations with the Chinese authorities for the import of newsprint and the first shipment is officially expected before the year-end. In an informal talk with reporters, the Commerce Secretary and part-time Chairman of the STC, Mr. P. K. Kaul said with a view to diversifying the sources of supply, the Corporation had added new sources of supplies of newsprint from Yugoslavia and China. As against the requirement of 3.60 lakh tonnes for consumption during 1981-82, the Corporation had already contracted for 3.85 lakh tonnes, he said. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 May 81 p 9]

SALABLE STEEL PRODUCTION--New Delhi, May 18: The integrated steel plants under the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) achieved a record salable steel production of 400,300 tonnes against the target of 386,800 tonnes in April. Compared to the production of 299,000 tonnes in April last year, SAIL has achieved a 33 per cent increase in production last month. The production of salable steel in all plants, including SAIL and TISCO during April this year, at 511,500 tonnes, shows a 26.8 per cent increase over the production in April, 1980. The increase in respect of ingot steel in the SAIL plants has also been very substantial. Ingot production in SAIL increased to 512,300 tonnes in April this year from 445,500 tonnes in April, 1980. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 May 81 p 10]

KASHMIR AIRPORT SECURITY--Jammu, May 17 (UNI): Security measures at Srinagar and Jammu airports have been tightened following a report that followers of Mohammed Maqbool Bhatt, chief of the "Kashmir liberation front", may hijack an Indian plane for securing his release. Two people have already been arrested in this connection. According to official sources, the followers of Bhatt, who is facing a death sentence for murdering in 1972 the manager of a bank in Kupwara district, held two meetings at Sopore where it was decided to hijack an aircraft. Bhatt has now filed a mercy petition to President Sanjiva Reddy. He had escaped from the Srinagar central jail in 1966, when he was arrested on charges of espionage. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 81 p 1]

GOA PLAN EXCEEDED--Panaji, May 17: The Goa government has exceeded annual plan targets in several areas, according to a review of the Union territory's performance in the year ended March 1981. The chief minister, Mr. Pratap Singh Rane, reported to a meeting of the planning board on Friday that during the year under review, Rs. 31.34 crores was spent, against a plan allocation of Rs. 31.25 crores. One-third of the total allocation went to social and community services. The physical target of enrolling 240,350 boys and girls in schools was exceeded by 2,330. Similarly, 32 health centres had been set up, against 21 planned. Milk production reached 19,000 tonnes, against the targeted 13,000. The target of 29,700 hectares under high-yielding varieties was nearly achieved. The board meeting was attended by the lt. governor, Mr. Jag Mohan. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 81 p 3]

COAL RESERVES FOUND--Asansol, May 18. Fresh non-metallurgical coal reserves totalling 250 million tonnes suitable for use in thermal power plants have been found in Bankur district of West Bengal, according to Central Mine Planning and Design Institute sources here. The reserves are located in the Bakulia-Kalidaspur-Kalikapur-Ardhagram region and Bajora block of the district. Eastern Coalfields Limited which envisaged a capital investment of nearly Rs. 17 crores in the Kalidaspur coal project in the district, proposes to spend Rs. one crore on it during 1981-82, ECL sources said.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 May 81 p 10]

INDIAN FIRMS BLACKLISTED--Doha, May 18 (UNI): The Qatar minister of economics and trade, Mr. Nasser bin Khaled al Thani, has ordered the blacklisting of 11 Indian firms for violating the Israeli boycott regulations, it was reported today. The Indian firms were accused of engaging in diamonds re-export from Israel and of trading in chemicals with the "Zionist state", reports KUNA. Over 14 other foreign firms were also banned from trading with Qatar for failure to comply with those regulations, the report added. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 May 81 p 1]

FIBER OPTICS BREAKTHROUGH--Chandigarh, May 18 (PTI): A major breakthrough has been made in the development of sophisticated fibre optics technology by the central scientific instruments organisation (CSIO) here. According to a spokesman of the CSIO, it was a significant development as till now most of the fibre optics based instruments and devices used for medical, industrial and research purposes were being imported at a high cost. The potential for application of the technology includes medical instrumentation and diagnosis, space and astronomical research, communication and nuclear research and computer links. With the indigenous development of the technology the cost would be cut by 50 per cent, the spokesman said. He said the CSIO has developed multiple fibres and a fibre optics clinical head lamp. A nucleus has been established at the organisation for work in the technology and related instrumentation. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 May 81 p 4]

SOCIALIST TO LOK DAL--Lucknow, May 16 (UNI)--Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Ram Naresh Yadav today resigned from the chairmanship of the State Socialist Party as also from the primary membership of the party and announced his decision to join the Lok Dal. Mr Yadav, who is seeking election to the Vidhan Sabha from Bisauli constituency of Badaun district, told UNI late tonight that he was retiring from the contest. He declined to elaborate his decision. In the Bisauli byelection Mr Yadav is being opposed among others by Mrs Shanti Devi (Lok Dal), a former MP. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 May 81 p 1]

PROMINENT SCIENTIST DIES--Prof K Venkataraman, doyen of Indian organic chemists, died in New Delhi on 12 May at the age of 79. Recipient of Padma Bhushan and a number of gold medals and academic and other honours in India and abroad, he was a visiting professor in several Indian and foreign universities and institutions of repute. Prof Venkataraman helped create the Bombay University department of chemical technology and served as Director, CSIR, National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, for nine years. He had also published over 230 papers in Indian and international journals and supervised over 80 students who were awarded doctorates in organic chemistry and now occupy prominent research positions in industry and academic institutions all over the world. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 May 81 p 1]

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK--Lome, May 16 (AFP)--India and Austria have been admitted as new members of the African Development Bank. The membership of the two countries was accepted during a five-day meeting of Governors of the Bank ended here yesterday. Togolese finance and economy minister Tete Tevi Benissan was elected chairman of the Council of Governors for the next 12 months. Twenty-six non-African countries and several international finance organisations now belong to the bank. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 May 81 p 3]

BENGAL ELECTION CANDIDATES--Calcutta, May 16 (PTI): The Congress (U) stayed away from the June 14 by-election to one Lok Sabha constituency and eight assembly seats in West Bengal, with all their candidates having withdrawn from the contest. On the day of withdrawal today, a total of 13 candidates, including Congress (U) nominees for the Serampore Lok Sabha constituency and two assembly seats--Maniktala and Midnapore--withdrew from the contest, leaving a total of four candidates for the parliamentary seat and 29 for the assembly constituencies. While the Congress (I) is contesting all the seats, the CPM has given to CPI, in an electoral understanding, the Midnapore assembly seat where five candidates are in the contest. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 May 81 p 1]

SIKH MESSAGE TO UN--Chandigarh, May 16 (PTI). The Akali Dal (Talwandi group) has sent through a "special messenger" its "case" to the secretary-general, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, seeking associate membership of the United Nations for Sikhs, its general secretary, Mr. R. S. Cheema, said today. Addressing a press conference along with the party's legal adviser, Mr. Gurnam Singh Tir, he said they deputed the "special messenger" as they had apprehensions about the letter being "censored". They refused to disclose the identity of the messenger but agreed to release the contents soon. However, both Mr. Cheema and Mr. Tir asserted that the step in no way threatened national security. They said the messenger was also carrying with him the Anandpur Sahib resolution for whose implementation the party's supporters had been courting arrests. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 May 81 p 9]

KASHMIR PLEBISCITE URGED--Srinagar, May 15: Jamait-i-Islami leaders today reiterated that the Kashmir issue had still to be decided and that India should fulfil its commitment on the UN resolutions by holding a plebiscite. The Jamait speakers, who were addressing a rally at Hazuri Bagh, also warned against merger into the national mainstream as the Kashmiris would lose their cultural identity. Among those who addressed the rally, which began with prayers, was Mr. Ali Shah Geelani, the lone Jamait member in the state assembly. Though the organisers had taken pains to make the rally a success, the attendance was very poor. No untoward incident was reported. This is the first rally organised by the Jamait in Srinagar. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 May 81 p 14]

AIR VICE MARSHAL DIES--May 15: Air Vice-Marshal M. M. Dutt, air officer commanding, maritime air operations of the Indian Air Force, died following a heart attack here yesterday. Air Vice-Marshal Dutt, who had taken over his present appointment in January this year, was commissioned in the flying (navigation) branch of the I.A.F. He was a graduate of the Defence Services Staff college. He is survived by his wife and three children. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 May 81 p 15]

TEAM TO PRC--A 10-member delegation of the India-China Friendship Association (IFCA) will leave Calcutta for Beijing on 19 May for a two-week visit on the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, reports UNI. The delegation will be led by Mr B B Mondal, ICFA president and West Bengal Minister for Co-operatives. Other members of the delegation are: Mr Thakur Sen Negi, Speaker, Himachal Vidhan Sabha Mr Brish Bhan, former Chief Minister of Pepsu, Mr Tara Chand Gupta head of the department of journalism, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Mr Shri Ram Sharma, general secretary Delhi unit of ICFA, Mrs Jean Kalgutkar (Bombay), Mr M Norayana Swamy (Andhra Pradesh), Swami Agnivesh, MLA (Haryana), Mr Uma Shankar Shukla (Bihar unit of ICFA) and Mr K P R Gopalan (Kerala unit) of ICFA). [as published] [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 May 81 p 5]

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST FRONT--New Delhi, May 16: Mr. H. N. Bahuguna, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Front, has appointed Mr. K. V. Raghunath Reddy, former Union minister, as one of the general secretaries of the party. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 May 81 p 13]

CSO: 4220/7828

ALLEGED CIA AGENT INFILTRATED PALACE

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 5 Apr 81 pp 1, 11

[Article by Asbari Nurpatria Krisna: "Former Security Guard of President Sukarno Says That Guntur Did Not Want Security Protection Because He Had a Girlfriend"]

[Excerpts] "Pengalaman Pribadi Dengan Bung Karno" [Sic: "Pengalaman" probably should read "Pengawalan": Private Security Guard with President Sukarno], written by Mangil, covers his experiences for 22 years with Bung Karno. Some of the stories are funny, some are sad, some make you happy, and some will make you feel tense. As the commander of the private security guard, his experiences were very valuable.

One day, writes Mangil, Guntur [Sukarno's son] "told me that he didn't want security protection because he was grown up and was already of age. However, at the time Guntur had a girlfriend. Perhaps Guntur was ashamed on account of his girlfriend, for wherever he went, he was tailed by his security guard. However, I made sure that the security guard with Guntur was one of my men who was of the same age as Guntur."

At Independence Palace one day a guest arrived, a beautiful girl from the United States. The beautiful girl had an audience with Bung Karno. After meeting with Bung Karno, almost every day the beautiful girl chatted with guests and friends of Bung Karno's, on the verandah in the rear of the palace while drinking coffee.

For a long time the young woman was permitted by Bung Karno to be friends with his children. Sometimes, she joined them for dancing lessons and similar subjects. The beautiful girl from the United States could enter the palace of the president in Jakarta freely.

During a trip of Bung Karno's overseas he was a guest of President Ayub Khan of Pakistan. President Ayub Khan asked President Soekarno, "Is it true that in your palace in Jakarta there is a beautiful young woman from the United States?" Bung Karno answered clearly, "Yes, there is. She is a friend of my children." Once again President Ayub Khan asked Bung Karno, "Do you really know who that beautiful young woman is?" Bung Karno replied, "Yes, I know. She is a good person. She wants to study dancing, singing, and other art forms in Jakarta."

Hearing Bung Karno's clear answers, President Ayub Khan smiled and seemed to be amused. Later he went on to say to Bung Karno, "Hey, Bung Karno, you should know

that the beautiful girl from the United States is a member of the Central Intelligence Agency. I have received this information from my intelligence sources in Pakistan. I don't know whether, seen up close, the girl is beautiful. However, I know that she is a member of the CIA. Bung Karno, who has seen her up close and knows the girl well, does not know who she really is. The beautiful girl is known to Pakistani intelligence as a member of CIA."

When he heard this friendly story from Pakistan, Bung Karno was astonished. Pakinstani intelligence was certainly very good, and the president of Pakistan was so loyal to Bung Karno that President Ayub Khan wanted to give this very useful information to Bung Karno.

After Bung Karno returned to Jakarta from his trip abroad, the beautiful girl from the United States was expelled from the palace by Bung Karno and also expelled from Indonesia. Bung Karno even said, "Our national intelligence is no good. The same is true of the intelligence system of the Cakrabirawa Regiment [the presidential guard formation]."

According to Bung Karno not just Americans are CIA agents. They can also be other nationalities, including Indonesians. In other secret services the CIA can also plant its agents. In intelligence terminology such people are called "moles" [tikus mondok].

In Indonesia the CIA usually employs Indonesians. This includes those who have been educated in America as well as Indonesians who have high positions. In a smoothe way they perform services for him, so that the person who is being recruited as an agent is not aware that he will become a CIA agent.

CIA agents do not know each other. Important persons in high positions always are spied on, not only by the CIA, but also by other secret services, such as, for example, the Russian KGB. Usually, CIA members who are assigned the task of recruiting agents, work smoothly, using various kinds of cover, such as a sports instructor, a reporter, a professor, and many others. They work through a variety of stages. Indeed, at times, if they cannot get close to an important person whom they want to recruit as an agent, they may go through his family. It happens at times that a member of the family is not aware that he is being used by a member of CIA or by another secret service.

For that reason, according to Bung Karno, every Indonesian must be aware of the possibility that his association with a foreigner may be used by them. It could be even worse, if the relationship is used to damage our country.

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CSO: 4213/69

APOLOGY TO PRESIDENT BY JASIN

Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 11 Apr 81 p 17

[Article: "Finally Asks Pardon"]

[Excerpts] It happens that a man becomes frightened at what he has done in criticizing the leadership of President Soeharto at the beginning of 1980. Now Lt Gen (Wartime) M Jasin has made news which is equally astonishing: he has asked the president's pardon. The only signer of the "Petition of 50" who was interrogated by the prosecutor's office six times since July, 1980, has stated to the press that he has sent a letter to the president. In the letter he states that he withdraws the comments and writings which caused the case to arise which is known as the "Jasin Letter Affair." He said, "In the letter I ask pardon of the president."

Apart from apologizing to the president, Jasin also asks pardon of all sections and groups which suffered as a result of the case which involved him. "However, it is not true that I asked pardon specifically of Gen Yoga [head of BAKIN] and Adm Sudomo, as reported in a Jakarta newspaper," he said, clarifying his position.

The letter of apology was sent by him through the attorney general, Dr Ismail Saleh, on 25 March. Just about 10 days later the investigation of his actions was declared closed by the office of the state prosecutor. "He asked the attorney general to use his powers to dispose of the case," said Ismail Saleh. The new attorney general said that basically the president had accepted Jasin's apology. The decision whether or not to proceed with the case will be made in the coming weeks.

Indeed, since his name was connected with the "Petition of 50," his activity as a businessman has declined. The former commander of Military Region VIII/Brawijaya, deputy chief of staff of the Army, and one-time secretary general of the Ministry of Public Works, was among the consultants who have many foreign firms among their clients. Because his activity was restricted, in the end he was dismissed from his positions as the chairman of the board of directors of PT Hayam Wuruk Permai, chairman of the board of PT Tristar Electronic, and a member of the board of directors of PT Nidya Laksana. The father of 4 children and 3 grandchildren has been living very quietly since that time. His full-time job can be said to involve jogging, bicycle riding, and bowling.

According to Jasin he sent the apology without consulting with his friends in advance. Indeed, Dr Sudjono, as his legal adviser, was not asked for his views. "I really sent the letter from my heart. I had to bear the consequences myself," he said.

This was confirmed by a friend who had also signed the "Petition of 50," Lt Gen (Wartime) Ali Sadikin. "That is his personal affair. The petition remains intact and stands as is," Ali Sadikin said.

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CSO: 4213/69

TERROR AS A TECHNIQUE OF COMMUNIST STRATEGY

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB 6 Apr 81 pp 1, 3

[Article: "Chairman of West Java Council of Religious Leaders, E Z Mutaqien: Terror Is a Communist Stratagem to Destroy the Armed Forces and Islam']

[Excerpts] The hijacking of the Garuda aircraft, as a form of terror, is one communist technique to destroy two major forces in Indonesia, the armed forces and the Islamic community. "For that reason such actions cannot be tolerated by us," said E Z Mutaqien, chairman of the West Java Council of Muslim Religious Leaders, said in answer to questions by HARIAN UMUM AB in Bandung on Saturday [4 April].

According to him, the communists always try to destroy the Islamice community in Indonesia. He mentioned three characteristics of communist strategy used to destroy the Islamic community in Indonesia:

First, by inciting differences between leaders of the Islamic community who are in the government and those who are outside the government. The two are set against each other until they both fall.

Secondly, they introduce new ways of thinking, using the name of Islam. In this way the Islamic community is kept busy with such matters.

Thirdly, the communists always try to ensure that the Islamic community is angry abouth something. They create and stimulate incidents having that effect, so that the Islamic community is always tense and emotional.

He gave the following example: "If there are two wrestlers who are equally brave, and they are matched against each other, one of them first tries to make his opponent angry. When he is angry, he will certainly lose the match."

To deal with the communist strategy, he said that the only way for the Islamic community is unity through the Council of Muslim Religious Leaders. It was hoped that members of the community would report if they observed strange developments which could result in divisions within the Islamic community. "If the question involves religion, the Council of Muslim Religious Leaders will resolve it. However, if the question concerns politics or criminal matters, we will turn it over to the government," he said.

The chairman of the West Java Council of Muslim Religious Leaders said further that people often misunderstand the meaning of "fundamentalist," which is often identified with "terrorism" or "extremist groups."

Islamic fundamentalists are those who adhere to Islam in a basic way. And if a fundamentalist has thought through the teachings of Islam in a basic way, it is not possible that he will become a terrorist or have an extremist point of view, he continued.

Meanwhile, people who call themselves Muslims but carry out hijackings or other acts of terror are Muslims who have thought about the teachings of Islam on the basis of only selected portions of Muslim teachings. "Thus, Islam must be considered as a whole. That is what funadmentalist means in Islam," he said.

For the Indonesian Islamic community, which has experienced some difficulties at the present time, there is no other choice than to join with the government in developing our country and nation.

Regarding the fact that there are still misunderstandings regarding the "Islamic Awakening," he said that such a term was not synonymous with "revolution." According to him, the Islamic awakening was created by the Islamic community under conditions requiring answers to the challenges of ignorance, poverty, and development, as well as the development of the Islamic community itself.

Regarding the followers of "Islam Murni" [Pure Islam] who were involved in the "Cicendo Affair" and the "Istiqamah Mosque Affair," the chairman of the West Java Council of Muslim Religious Leaders stated that a year ago the Council had reported on the activity of a young man named Imran, who was carrying on activity which disturbed the community. Their activities were excluded from Istiqamah Mosque, and they moved to the mosque at Cimahi. However, they no longer had many followers. Their leaders in Cimahi were arrested. There were still a few of them left.

When he was asked whether it is proper for them to be called Muslims, E X Mutaqien said that in practice up to now they often treated other members of the Islamic community as unbelievers. In Islamic law anyone who twice calls his brother in religion an unbeliever himself is an unbeliever.

"Thus, it is clear that both the hijackers and the followers of 'Islam Murni' are not Muslims. They are unbelievers," he said.

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CSO: 4213/69

FIRE BOMBS ON AIRCRAFT

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 8 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Article: "Failed Sabotage Attempt Seriously Examined: 'Time Bomb' Once Place on Aircraft Bound for Surabaya"]

[Excerpts] Minister of Communications Rusmin Nuryadin, in a statement made in Bali, said that before the hijacking of the Garuda DC-9 aircraft "Woyla" there has been sabotage attempts against Garuda and Merpati aircraft on the route to Surabaya.

Police sources contacted by MERDEKA confirmed that the sabotage attempts had occurred. According to the MERDEKA source at police headquarters, when the Garuda DC-9 was flying over Semarang, the captain and the co-pilot saw dense smoke coming out of a part of the aircraft. The Captain and co-pilot immediately informed the authorities at Juanda airfield in Surabaya. As soon as the aircraft landed, the fire department at the airfield sprayed water on the burning baggage compartment. The fire was quickly brought under control.

A futher investigation carried out by the police indicated that the fire in the baggage compartment of the Garuda DC-9 aircraft was the result of a kind of "time bomb" which had been placed in the belly of the aircraft. According to the MERDEKA source, the police found a battery, cables, matches, some bottles containing gasoline, a control device set in the "on" position, and a timer.

The time bomb which had been slipped in with the freight carried in the baggage compartment of the Garuda DC-9 was timed to go off in 65 minutes. This was calculated, based on the evidence provided by the timer which had been found.

According to the police investigation, the timer, which was connected to the cables and to the battery, could have caused a fire. It was calculated that the fire, once started, would have set fire to the gasoline stored in the 16 bottles. However, because of the position of the aircraft, which flew at a height of 6,000 feet, where the air at that altitude is thin, the fire which was burning in the baggage compartment did not spread to the wing tanks containing the fuel.

The attempted sabotage of the Garuda DC-9 aircraft thus failed. In view of this failure, it was believed that the perpetrators of this attempt would do the same to an aircraft of Merpati Nusantara Airlines in a flight from Jakarta to Surabaya.

However, this attempt also met with failure. The "time bomb" which had been set and slipped in among the freight carried in the baggage compartment went off and later burned the contents of the baggage compartment. However, the crew of the aircraft learned of the incident and asked for help from the authorities at Juanda airport in Surabaya. The fire in the baggage compartment of the aircraft was then brought under control.

Since these incidents occurred, the check of passengers and freight has indeed become more careful.

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CSO: 4213/69

BRIEFS

JUSUF MEETS U.S. AMBASSADOR--The minister of defense and security and commander of the armed forces, Gen M Jusuf, on Tuesday [7 April] met alone with United States Ambassador to Indonesia Edwards Masters. The meeting was held in Gen Jusuf's office. The meeting lasted for more than one hour. The two officials, among other things, discussed the question of cooperative relations between Indonesia and the United States, especially in the field of defense and security. The two of them agreed that in the future the two countries will have the same interests, especially in joining in the creation of world peace, including peace in Southeast Asia. Apart from that they both agreed that world developments at present are increasingly uncertain. Indeed, conflicts are becoming difficult to control, so that it is hard to reach agreement to move toward peace. In their view the only way to move in the direction of peace is by mutually developing cooperative relations in all fields, including cooperation in the field of defense and security. Because it is only by cooperation, based on feelings of mutual respect by one country for another country, that agreement can be achieved in order to develop world peace and, more particularly, peace between two countries. In order to move in this direction there is still a great deal which can be done by the two countries which are working together in this connection. [Excerpt] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesia 8 Apr 81 p 1] 5170

CSO: 4213/69

PRK TOLERATES FREE ENTERPRISE

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 May 81 p 6

[Article by Gregory MacArthur]

[Text]

PHNOM PENH ALTHOUGH Kampuchea's Vietnamese-backed leaders are firmly committed to Marxist - Leninist ideology, they have no intention of destroying its thriving free-enterprise commercial activity.

"The trader is the key of revolutionary Kampuchea," Chan Ven, Education Minister and Mayor of Phnom Penh, said in an interview.

Consumer goods often smuggled from across the Thai border provide Kampucheans with items ranging from clothing to expensive transistor radios that would be difficult to obtain elsewhere.

The market in Phnom Penh is a bustling centre of activity frequented by not only Kampucheans but also communist diplomatic families and soldiers of the occupying Vietnamese army.

"If we have no market, we have no commerce, and if we have no commerce we have no life," said Chan Ven.

Goods are brought to the capital mainly by train on the crowded carriages that arrive several times a week from Battambang, in western Kampuchea close to the Thai border.

The area in front of Phnom Penh station is crowded on arrival days with hundreds of people waiting with empty carts to receive the goods. On their way to the market, these carts pass at least one giant poster of Lenin — not known as an advocate of the free market economy.

Confirming the necessity of the trader to Kampuchea, Chan Ven said: "We must enlarge the commercial sphere."

He added that the Government was not like the "foolish Pol Pot regime," which abolished currency, emptied the cities and sought to transform Kampuchea into a tightly-regimented agrarian society.

The pro-Chinese Khmer Rouge regime of former prime minister Pol Pot was ousted by a Vietnamese-led offensive in January 1979.

SUCCESS

The introduction of currency last year has apparently been a big success, although the US dollar is still prized, at least in Phnom Penh, where foreign visitors pay hotel and other official bills in the American currency.

However, an attempt to purchase goods with dollars at a stall on the outskirts of Phnom Penh did not meet with immediate success.

The official rate of exchange is four riel to the dollar, but [illegible] riels is said by foreigners living in Phnom Penh to be six or seven riels and sometimes double that.

Besides the goods being brought in from abroad, Kampuchea is slowly struggling to produce essential items on its own, including bicycle tyres, soft drinks and even cigarettes.

After referring to the serious political differences between Kampuchea and Thailand, Chan Ven said: "Thai commerce is not our enemy."

But he added that while clothes and medicines were necessary, Thai cigarettes were not. Waving a red-and-white packet, he said smilingly: "We have liberation cigarettes."

Kampuchea says more than 60 factories have been started, providing products for daily use, and that small industries and handicrafts are being restored.

On the road from Takeo, in the south, to Phnom Penh, people travel on ox-carts and bicycles, taking not only coconuts and agricultural produce to the capital but also well-made sweeping brushes, baskets and other locally-made items.

As in other ways, Kampuchea may be taking its lead in tolerating small-scale capitalism from neighbouring Vietnam, which is also desperately short of consumer goods. Authorities have so far largely turned a blind eye to the noisy free market in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon. — Reuter

CSO: 4220/292

BRIEFS

EX-OFFICERS FLEE LAOS--A Group of 26 former right-wing Laotian military and police officers fled across the Mekong River into Si Chiang Mai District here during the weekend and surrendered themselves to Thai authorities. They told a Bangkok Post stringer that they had been arrested by troops of the present Government and sent for re-education at Vieng Xai since 1975. They were reportedly released a few months ago and brought back to Vientiane. They confirmed Laotian King Sawang Wattana is still alive and is living under house arrest in Vieng Xai. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 81 p 5]

CSO: 4220/292

IMPLEMENTATION OF ISLAMIC POLICY SEEN AS CURE TO COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 May 81 p 4

[Article by Syed Asad Gilani]

[Text]

IN any society, the apparent calm and suspense could not be regarded as a sure sign of peace and security. Sometimes a hidden storm could be seen behind it. The element of peace as it appears on the surface in the present state of Pakistan is not because the society, as a whole is fully satisfied with it and considers it to be an ideal condition to be approved with heart and soul; on the contrary, a lot of factors could be seen which speak of apprehention.

After losing power the Peoples Party has gone too far in its destructive policies, collaborating with the enemies of Pakistan and Islam within and outside against its own country and has become a tool in their hands. Some of the manifestations of its secret activities have become public now and this party has established centres of its destructive activities within the country and outside.

A few of the so-called Pakistan loving political parties too have demonstrated their association with the Peoples Party due to non-return of the normal democratic process and their ambitions are not unknown. Some of these parties have positive Russian leanings.

Islam-loving parties are crippled due to Martial Law and are suffering because of the continuous ban on their political activities. They have a feeling that the society has been left as if to become an easy prey to the secret conspiracies and behind-the-door activities against Islam and Pakistan.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Islam-loving public is losing faith and developing a feeling of disappointment in the wake of the prevailing insecurity and lawlessness coupled with the decaying decency. They realize that nothing more than a mere lip service is given for Islam on the top level whereas it appears that the elements of the Peoples Party are still ruling every where, thus making the position of Islam still ridiculous. They feel that subversionists are receiving cooperation from the bureaucracy at all levels which adds further to their sense of frustration.

The common citizen who is generally ignorant of [illegible] ideological and intellectual [illegible] is mostly concerned with his material needs. He feels that there is no check on the forces of exploitation and tyranny. Even on a just cause one has to spend money because it has become impossible now to get a job done from any office without recommendation or bribe. There is no prestige and self-respect, no security against tyranny of police so much so that in every mohallah even the local representatives have become police allies and therefore no sign of improvement and remedy is witnessed. Under these circumstances those statements expressing satisfaction and endorsing government policies issued by some ulema and intellectuals from the lower circles have no popular basis, neither have they any political or constitutional importance.

PERMANENT CURE

As to the Martial Law, it has always been accepted that it could not be regarded as a permanent cure for the ills of any state or nation and no society has ever accepted it as a permanent way of life. The organization and training of the armed forces are meant for national defence.

We put this country on the basis of Islam as the way of our life but it was persistently side-tracked.

Instead of implementing it we first of all started talking of socialism and destroyed the institutions of industry, service and morality and now we are paying only lip service to Islam as a result of which all hopes are fading. Thus, we are now putting our incapabilities into Islam's account.

Obviously, if no constructive effort is made to change this situation the natural course which operates in Pakistan after every five to six years would force it to take a direction which will not only be the one pursued to prolong the present regime, rather it will be against it.

This direction would be necessarily the same for which the foreign elements are working openly in our country, whereas Islam-loving elements are staying indoor respecting the Martial Law. If a movement starts in this direction with the external blessing and support then no respectable man would find his life, honour and property safe.

It is a fact that this country was created through democratic means and democracy lies in its base. Islam also believes in consultation which means a moral an intellectual democracy which could not be kept aside permanently unless any socialist totalitarian government is formed and if it so happens that would be the day of negation of Pakistan. We should, therefore, do something positive before that day ever dawn and should never think that the time would wait for us and America would defend us against any attack from Russia or India.

from Russia or India.

America as an orthodox arms merchant, would have to squeeze full value of their weapons they would deliver to us, but even then, they have been delaying the deal for the last one and a half years which is in no relation to any possible time table of Russian attack. In fact, American allies often have to face a situation whereby even their bodies taken for burial have to wait for disposal right in the graveyard because the aid is still forthcoming. American support is absolutely unreliable. However, in case it has been transformed now and has become more reliable even then the weapons made avilable would have to be used by the Pakistani nation. Therefore, so long as the Pakistani Nation is not determined and has no faith and concentration of mind these weapons would produce no result.

Afghan Mujahedeen are fighting practically without weapons for the last one and a half years against a Super-Power like Russia because they are having unity of mind and faith with no foreign agents entering their ranks. But in our case the people who are active even under the umbrella of Martial Law are those whose main business is secret activities and subversion and those who are nation-loving are sitting with tied hands because they are bound by National Laws and decent behaviour. In our opinion the government should now study facts with open eyes.

DISCONTMENT

What is the cause, after all, of discontent over government policies for those who consider it a part of their faith to die for Islam and sacrifice lives for the sake of Pakistan.

Mere statements in favour of Islam every day cannot transfer its benefits and advantages to the common man; rather these alert the opponents and make them still more active. They are free to act, whereas servants of Islam are keeping quiet because they are bound by the law.

The Martial Law should be lifted from the country now and democracy reinstated, and this should be done without any further delay otherwise time will not stay for doing it in your conventional slow manner.

We are now suggesting the following as solution for the problems faced by us.

-Announce holding of elections within three months and lift the censorship.

-Lift the ban on all political parties which are Islam and Pakistan-loving without delay in accordance with the Political Parties Act and declare illegal all those parties which are based on parochialism and regionalism and those which are subversionist, socialists, anti-Islam and ano-Pakistan including the Peoples Party.

-Elections should be held on the basis of proportional representation and instead of individual candidature it should be based on the principle of party candidature. Votes are to be cast on party's manifesto so that all votes become effective and no party could claim popular representation with minority votes.

QUALIFICATION

-On the basis of party's list, qualification for the members of the *shoora* should be fixed which should include attachment to Islam, morality, love for the country and observance of religious obligations, which means assembly members should have qualitative representation. Because of this method firstly the anti-Islam and ano-Pakistan elements will be eliminated and secondly the danger of characterless people being elected as assembly members shall be removed and finally the government would have popular support because of the correctly installed popular assembly. It is quite possible that such an assembly might lead to a coalition government, or so to say a national government, but that is the only and the most effective solution of all our problems the moment. This is the way how the objectives of national integration and popular support could work together within the frame work of a national government.

This is the most opportune time to do it, but if it is lost, there seems no remedy for it. Government could not solve the present problems without the active support of the public and the effective implementation of the Islamic Ideology, and this is the way of progressing towards popular support and the ideological implementation.

CSO: 4220/288

JUP SAID TO BE THREATENED BY RIFT IN TOP HIERARCHY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 May 81 p 1

[Article by Minhaj Barna]

[Text]

KARACHI, May 9: With the prolonged absence from the country of its chief, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, the defunct Jamiatul Ulema-e-Pakistan (JUP) is threatended with a serious rift in its top heirarchy following the suspension of party's leading member from Karachi and its Information Secretary Zahoorul Hasan Bhopali.

Mr. Bhopali has been accused of misconduct and corruption and anti-party activities by a group of JUP leaders headed by Mohammad Ahmad Siddiqui, brother-in-law of Shah Ahmad Noorani who has the support of party's General Secretary from Punjab, Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi.

Another group of party leaders mostly from Karachi and including Shah Faridul Haq, Mustafa al-Azhari and Hanif Tayyab are known to be lending full support to Mr. Bhopali and consider his suspension or reported expulsion from the party as illegal and contrary to party's constitution. They maintain that no one except the Majlis-e-Shoora and the party President has the right to suspend or expel the Information Secretary, while the group opposed to him contends that Maulana Noorani has issued orders of his expulsion from London on telephone.

In the meantime, a meeting of the supporters of Mr. Bhopali was held here to consider the issue and adopted a resolution in support of Mr. Bhopali.

The other faction led by Mohammad Ahmad Siddiqui, and including Sufi Ayaz Khan, Pir Syed Nasir Ali Shah Gilani, Ibrahim Ahmad Ghazi and Mohammad Ilyas Siddiqi in a statement termed the meeting as illegal and unconstitutional. Asked to comment on the statement, Shah Faridul Haq said the meeting was informal and "everything will be decided by the Majlis-e-Shoora pending which no action against Mr. Bhopali is legal."

Meanwhile some members of the JUP, including those supporting Mr. Bhopali, are reportedly annoyed in the manner the JUP-Muslim League (Pagara Group) alliance had been formalised. They are in particular against the decision not to cooperate with the Government and not to join Federal or Provincial Cabinets and the Federal Advisory Council. They have decided to violate the mandate and members from both defunct parties have already joined or are likely to join the Cabinet and the Advisory Council. The decision of Ahad Yusuf, a leader of the defunct JUP, to join the Sind Cabinet is an indication of the prevailing trend.

CSO: 4220/288

GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARD SMUGGLING SATIRIZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 May 81 p 4

[Article by Masood Hasan]

[Text]

"Coo," gushed Aunty, "This is my first trip to a real smuggling market."

"Sshh," I hissed. "Don't call it that. The people out here in Bara are a very sensitive lot."

"I'm so excited," said Aunty.

"Well naturally since it's your first trip," I said.

"Oh I've been to the other Haras," said Aunty. "I mean I've been around but this is the real thing isn't it?"

"It is," I replied.

"And carrying on in the same vein, do things go better here?"

"They certainly do," I said, "especially when proper custom arrangements have been made."

"Oh goody," said Aunty. "I can hardly wait."

"You don't have to," I said, "for here is the market looming up ahead."

"That's Bara?" asked Aunty.

"The genuine item," I supplied.

"It doesn't look like much from the outside," she said.

"Appearances my dear, to use a hackneyed cliche as my friend C. Mujahid puts it, are deceptive. The great secret of Bara is simply that nothing is what it seems to be and what seems to be is but nothing."

"Go on with you," replied Aunty. "You know I don't like these complicated word games you play on me."

"I am playing no games, I assure you Aunty," I said.

"Then what do you mean nothing is what it seems to be?" she asked.

"These shops were built—" I began.

"Naturally by the shopkeepers stupid," she said.

"Wrong," I replied. "The Government."

"Jolly decent of them," Aunty replied, "but very confusing if you know what I mean."

"Everything about this set up is confusing," I said, "The shops were made to appease the tribals."

"Why, were they angry or something?"

"You can never tell with tribals," I said.

"So prosperity dawned here," she said.

"It did and thereby brought into sharp focus the great national hang up."

"And what was that?"

"Double standards," I said.

"What do you mean?" asked Aunty.

"It's like this," I answered. "On the one hand the Government built the shops so that shopkeepers could, sit and trade in goods. On the other hand, they hoisted a customs check post so that shoppers could not shop at the shops built by the Government."

"It certainly is very confusing," said Aunty holding her head. "Why?"

"Search me," I said.

"I certainly will not," she replied. "How would it look if I frisked you in public?"

"Bad," I said, "more so since there aren't any check-in counters in sight."

"So what happened then?" she asked.

"What usually happens," I said. "The market was up, the traders were rearing to go into business and the public was ready to dive into their cash pockets."

"But if you are not allowed to take things out of Bara freely why let the market flourish?"

"A sensible question which has defied all explanation for many years," I said.

"That still doesn't answer my question," Aunty said.

"What is truth asked the Jesting Pilate, but would not stay for an answer," I replied.

"I am serious," said Aunty. "How can everyone be so blind to all this?"

"Who the hell is blind?" I asked. "The truth, Aunty, is that as long as you can get your stuff and get it safely into your house, the hell with rules, double standards and garbage like that."

"And how is that arranged?" asked Aunty.

"In many devious ways," I replied. "It really depends on what you are buying and in what quantities. For instance what is on your shopping list?"

"Let's see now," she replied. "2 ACs, one colour TV and one car stereo. Are these what you'd call major items?"

"That they are," I said. "Now here's the procedure. We'll buy the stuff and even before we are back in Peshawar, the goods will be there."

"That easy?" asked Aunty.

"That easy," I said. "Of course, the courier will charge us for services rendered but it's not too much considering the prices involved. From Peshawar to Lahore is tough but no impossible."

"And how do the couriers get it past the check post?"

"Next question, Aunty," I replied.

"Aren't you going to answer that?"

"Of course not," I replied. "It's not even worth answering."

"Oh I see," said Aunty.

"So does the custom check post," I replied "and they let it go. It's what is called give and take. You know, a kind of mutual adjustment and understanding. Works wonders."

"And supposing one is buying small stuff like soaps and tooth-pastes and socks and bubble gum. What happens then?"

"Why nothing of course," I said. "You place all the parcels on the car seats and drive innocent-like to the post. They'll peer inside and see nothing. Then you open the boot and they'll give it a casual glance. Then you drive away."

"And if one was buying mules of cloth, electric gadgets and tons of soap, would things be the same?"

"Well naturally not," I said. "After all, these people have some principles you know. In such cases you hire a short-hop courier. You cross the check post and park up ahead and before you know it your courier arrives in a tonga with all your purchases."

"In a tonga? Through the check posts?"

"Live and let live, Aunty, is the name of the game," I said. "Everyone is very practical and very sane about the situation. The anomaly that is Bara exists. There's nothing that can be done about it so everyone takes inspiration from that one central fact."

"And where does all this smuggled stuff come from?" said Aunty.

"There you go again, Aunty," I said. "It's not smuggled really. It all arrives at Karachi from overseas and is en route to Kabul. So the imported goodies travel by truck right across Pakistan till they reach the Afghan border. Here the trucks refuse to step across the line, so the necessary paper work is carried out and the trucks return to Landi Kotal or Bara, unload the goods and are off again to Karachi. How do you like it so far?"

"And that's the way it's been?" asked Aunty.

"That's right," I said. "Maybe one day they'll put in a proper custom post where people can pay duty and take the things home."

"And when do you think that'll happen?"

"Not in a million years," I said.

"What do we do in the meantime?" she asked.

"What everyone does," I said. "Raid the shops and blow our money."

"Now you are talking my language," said Aunty. "Out of my way. I am going in".

CSO: 4220/288

'MAIL' CONDEMNS POLICE FOR USE OF TORTURE

Pesawar KHYBER MAIL in English 24 May 81 p 3

[Editorial: "Police Torture"]

[Text] Yet another news comes, from Karachi this time, of alleged torture by the police, which resulted in the killing of a man and so much injury to his wife that she had to be hospitalized. This is not the first story of its kind which has filtered through the press. There have been many others. Though in all such cases, enquiry had been ordered by the Governor or Chiefs of Police, the results of such investigations have not been made public. Hardened criminals, say the Police, do not easily allow themselves to fruitful interrogation and they have to be used harshly to let them give out details of their crime. We do not agree. There is a great chance of honest and innocent people, brought into the vortex of circumstances, to make a false confession in order to save themselves from an immediate physical misuse. Torture in such cases is the progenitor of a gross injustice. In a country where torture of the accused is considered an efficacious method of obtaining facts, there is a greater chance of a total dereliction of justice. It is also against the basic principles of law, which defines an accused to be considered innocent until otherwise proved. Innumerable cases have shown that a person may become the victim of a number of situations in which he might have been caught by an irony of events which may point towards the finger of certainty for a crime, though they may be quite unconcerned with it. A very simple and hypothetical situation may be that of a man, while on a simple constitutional at any hour of the night may be saddled with stolen goods by another chased by the guards and on his way to flight and the police coming up on him before he is aware of what was about to hit him and finding on him the corpus delicti. In police investigation in our country, there is no scope for alibis. Presumptions are carried through at such a fast pace and without scientific investigations that it leaves people completely aghast. This is followed so inevitably by the use of the stick and other instruments of torture that some have not gumption left but to confess.

Although in law confessions made before the police have no legal standing and can easily be repudiated before a magistrate, but the conspiracy of circumstances lands him to another torture, that of the trial and imprisonment. There are cases in which an accused lingers in incarceration for months if not years before he is proved not guilty before the law. There exists no compensation for his being put to trial for something which he did not commit, or for the expense, wastage of

productive time, the tragedies which might have followed to the family of which he might have been the sole bread-earner. There is also no punishment in law for the police officer who has so viciously involved an innocent person with full intent and deliberation.

Everyone knows that there are two most obvious reasons for the police personnel acting in such a way. One is to evince their efficiency before their bosses, and the other to fill their own pockets with illegal cash. Often enough their efficiency is questionable. Only the other day, the President himself listened to a complaint by a couple who informed him that the murderer of their only child in November last had not been apprehended till now because the possible criminals were "influential" people, which means capable of getting matters hushed up with cash! Such a possible reach is rare and one can surmise the extent of this malady in cases where there is no appeal. Torture in itself is uncivilised and brutal, even of criminals, as it has no legal sanction behind it. But to torture an accused until he succumbs to his injuries during the process is horrifying in the extreme. Then, for the police to lay their hands on a woman, as in the Karachi case, is taking conduct back to the days of primitiveness of a million years. Departmental enquiries are often less than useless, as they hardly produce any results. There is something basically wrong in our procedures to stem crime. Unless this approach is eradicated root and branch, there would be other cases, as there have been in the past. The problem has to be tackled on a national level and only effective remedies have to be prescribed instead of minor patchwork here and there.

CSO: 4220/300

NUCLEAR POWER SAID ONLY SOLUTION TO ENERGY PROBLEM

Karachi DAWN in English 4 Jun 81 p 8

[Text]

Maj-Gen. (Retd) Rao Farman Ali Khan, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, said in Karachi yesterday that only the development of nuclear energy could provide an elective answer to the country's growing energy problems.

Speaking at a meeting of the Institute of Foreign Relations here, the Minister said the present Government was doing its best to exploit the available natural resources. At present, 50 per cent of the country's energy requirements were being met through the indigenous oil and gas. However there was a scope for greater exploration and exploitation in this field. Although three major gas field at Dodhak, Pirkoh and Marri were found during the recent years, oil had not been struck in sufficient quantity. At present, only ten per cent of Pakistan's oil requirements were being met locally.

The Minister said oil and gas were diminishing sources, and the country would have to find alternative sources of energy like nuclear, solar and biogas and wind to meet its future requirements. In his opinion, nuclear energy was very important for the country's economic development.

HYDEL POWER

The Minister said the present Government was also trying to develop the country's Hydroelectric potentials. He mentioned the proposed Kalabagh Dam and other projects in this respect.

Rao Farman Ali Khan said the Government would look into the prospects of using the Lakhra coal for generation of electricity.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Our Staff Reporter adds: Maj-Gen Rao Farman Ali Khan last night urged the officers and staff of the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation to work hard to bring to surface the rich mineral resources of the country.

Commercial exploitation of mineral resources of the country is essential to bring about prosperity in the country and also to put the name of Pakistan among the mineral-rich countries of the world, the Minister said.

Speaking at the annual dinner meeting of the Pakistan Mineral Development Officers Association at a hotel he said that the Association thinks in broader perspective of the country's welfare and does not confine itself to its own problems.

He was rather pleased with the way the demands of the officers were put forward without involving emotions.

Maj-Gen. Farman Ali expressed his concern at the number of organisations and corporations engaged in the field of exploitation of the minerals in the country.

He said, as far as the payment of bonus to the officers and supervisors is concerned, he will look into the matter with serious earnestness as to what prompted the Finance Ministry to stop such payments.

The PMDC Board, he said, is again empowered to look into the question making a policy decision regarding the demand for pension for the retiring personnel.

CSO: 4220/300

POPULATION GROWTH IN URBAN AREAS TAXES HEALTH CARE

Islamabd THE MUSLIM in English 23 May 81 p 1

[Article by Muhammad Afzal]

[Text] Islamabad, May 22--Rapid growth of population, low per capita income, inadequate nutrition and crowded and insanitary living conditions are the root-cause of the high level of morbidity and other problems in the country, said Dr A.R. Rukanuddin, Chief of Population and Development Section at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, while talking to The Muslim, here today.

He said health facilities in the country were still quite low as compared to even many of the developing countries. Moreover, public health facilities were particularly inadequate in rural areas.

For example, he said, more than 81 percent of hospital beds were available in urban areas and almost 48 percent of dispensaries and basic health units were also located here. This indicated that the existing public health facilities, already inadequate in rural areas, would not be able to cope with the rapidly growing population, he added.

While elaborating this, he said the bulk of diet people consumed, consisted of cereals. Wheat was the dominant component, constituting 83 percent of the total cereal intake. The consumption of protective food, such as meat, fish, eggs, fruits, vegetables and dairy products, was quite meagre. He said it fell short of the requirements of a balanced diet recommended by the FAO.

He said the per capita calorie intake per day in Pakistan was 2218; of which 81 percent was derived from carbohydrate foods, such as cereals, starchy roots and sugar, compared to 57 percent in the developed regions of the world. The per capita annual intake of proteins in Pakistan was about 9 grams. This compared unfavourably to 42 grams for Europe, 64 for the U.S.A. and Canada, 17 for Japan and the world average of 24 grams.

He said the findings of two nutrition surveys carried out recently had shown that the poor quality diets were mainly responsible for severe malnutrition among the children and adults, and particularly among the females, in the form of specific deficiency diseases like anaemia, conjunctival pollar and ostemalale.

It had been estimated that about half of the individuals covered by the survey did not meet their full recommended dietary allowance for calories, with one-fourth of them consuming even less than 70 percent of the allowance, he said.

It was further observed that the incidence of anaemia was almost twice as common among pregnant and lactating women as compared to the rest of the female population, he concluded.

CSO: 4220/300

ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION AT 9 MILLION TONS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 May 81 p 6

[Text] Lahore, May 17--Nine million tons of milk is being produced annually in the country which is half of the quantity of milk produced by rest of 40 countries of the Muslim world and production of 6.5 million tons of milk in Punjab alone is more than that of all the 12 OPEC countries put together.

This was stated here today by the Chairman, Planning and Development Board, Punjab, Saeed Ahmed Qureshi, while inaugurating a workshop on economics of village livestock organised by the Punjab Research Institute and Livestock Fisheries and Dairy Development Department.

Agricultural Development Council and German Agency for Technical Co-operation have also provided assistance in holding the workshop.

He said that livestock play a vital role in the lives of millions of people all over the world.

He was of the view that all-out efforts should be made to boost livestock production. He said Pakistan had an estimated livestock production of 145 million including poultry which compares favourably with 90 million at the time of livestock census conducted in 1976. Estimate of the livestock population during 1979-80 indicates substantial increase in goat, sheep and poultry ranging from 40 percent to 85 percent since 1975-76.

He suggested that a campaign for the uplift livestock and dairy development at national level should be launched and dairy co-operatives of producers may also be organised at village, tehsil and district level through local government institutions. He also stressed the need to streamline the distribution system of livestock production.--APP

CSO: 4220/300

CONTINUED NEED TO PROMOTE FOOD PRODUCTION VIEWED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 21 May 81 pp 7-8

[Text]

A CONFIDENT report, published with understandable glee by an Islamabad paper, claiming that Pakistan had attained the oft-promised goal of au arky in foodgrains has been shot down quickly and even more authoritatively.

According to the original report, Food Ministry officials 'had calculated that, after meeting its own requirements, Pakistan would be in a position to export about two million tons of wheat this year, and that our bureaucrats were agitated over what could be done with the surplus wheat. Should such a situation arise, the plain and wise answer would be to store it, so that a reserve can be built up against future lean years and in order to maintain a reasonable price level towards the end of the wheat year. This, we were told, was not feasible, and plans were being made to export what wheat we would have spare. It was said that, first, our planners wanted to demonstrate to the world that Pakistan had stepped into the ranks of wheat-exporters; and, secondly, because the country's storage capacity was inadequate to hold even this small surplus. It was explained that grandiose plans publicised by at least two provincial governments to construct a string of storage bins had not materialised as the relevant projects, for which special credits have been made available, had not been implemented.

Optimism tempered

Government spokesmen, specially those of the ministerial brand, have never been short of optimism. The promise of food autarky has been bandied about over many long years, but the country has remained dependent on food imports, not only in the matter of edible oils, milk products and other items, but even the country's staple diet—wheat. Every time the pledge was proved to be hollow, a series of familiar excuses were trotted out, such as bad weather, too little or too much rain, inability to check smugglers or other pests, and even miscalculations by surveyors and mistakes by statisticians. Whatever its causes, the net result was that for decades Pakistan has continued to buy expensive foreign wheat and at times was even compelled to beg for bread.

This partly euphoric report, we were told the next day, was totally baseless. It was said that, as against our total requirement of 10.55 million metric tons, the total availability of wheat, after allowing 10 per cent for seed, feed, and wastage, would be no more than around 10.21 million tons. Although the production target was fixed at 11.34 million tons, as of now a shortfall was expected; anyhow, no final announcement would be possible before the end of June when the total crop had been harvested. In regard to storage, it has been said that the position is most satisfactory, in that at present covered storage capacity for 2.05 million tons is available and more godowns are under construction. By next year, storage will acquire a capacity of 2.48 million tons, which along with improvisations and the hiring of private godowns, would meet any likely demand for the carry-over of wheat.

Future policy

Be that as it may, it is necessary to stress that, even if the autarky slogan was not believed by those who shouted it the loudest, proper and safe arrangements for storage are needed even during normal years, so that damage through exposure and loss on account of pests could be avoided. That not much has been done in this regard is a scandal in itself which needs to be probed. A crash programme must be undertaken to build sufficient storage capacity before the next wheat year. Talking of next year's crop, it is essential that Government should carefully examine its cost structure so that farmers can be encouraged to plan in terms of allocating sufficient land to foodgrains and are not tempted by the higher prices available to divert it to other crops.

Policy must be guided by making available at reasonable prices, if necessary by resumption of subsidisation, of the various essential inputs, so that the demand for a higher floor prices can be countered by these and other compensatory facilities. This should be done immediately, so that well before the approach of the next wheat season the farmer is no longer found reluctant to give proper attention to growing more wheat.

CSO: 4220/300

PPL'S 1980 GAS PRODUCTION

Karachi PROGRESS in English May 81 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THREE development wells were drilled at Sui field by Pakistan Petroleum in 1980 to meet the ever rising demand for gas in the country. One of these wells was not in the development plans for the year but was drilled to cater for unexpected offtakes by PPL's customers—Sui Gas Transmission, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines and Gudu thermal power station of WAPDA. More wells are proposed to be drilled during the current year—1981.

As compared to the previous year PPL's natural gas sales in 1980 rose by 17.21 percent to 6221 million cubic metres (220.820 million cubic feet). In 1979 sales had totalled 5307 million cubic metres (188.403 million cubic feet).

Supply of gas from Sui in 1980 was equivalent in heating value to more than 5.25 million metric tons of furnace oil (or 96,000 barrels per day). PPL's production saved the country about $900 million in foreign exchange during the year.

These facts were mentioned by Mr. D.M. Keith, O.B.E., chairman, PPL, in his statement to shareholders reviewing the company's operations for the year ended 31st December, 1980.

Sales to the southern transmission system increased by about 15.7 percent and by about 22.7 percent in the north. The increase down south was due mainly on account of growth in industrial demand. In the northern region offtakes by WAPDA for power generation accounted for the increase. Gas sales to Gudu thermal power station, however, declined by 5.7 per cent due mainly to lower seasonal operational requirements.

A significant increase was recorded in the maximum day gas offtake on 28th December when gas production registered 22.20 million cubic metres (788 million cubic feet).

Cumulative production of raw gas from the Sui field, (September 1955 to 31st December, 1980) totalled 0.063 trillion cubic metres (2.24 trillion cubic feet). This represents about 26 percent of the field's estimated original reserves of 0.243 trillion cubic metres (8.62 trillion cubic feet).

As mentioned above, three development wells, Nos. 25, 26 and 27 were drilled during 1980. Two existing wells were recidised to improve their producibility. To cater for further growth in gas demand more development wells are planned to be drilled during 1981. The first of these (Well No. 28) was spudded-in on 9th February, 1981. A programme of workovers of existing wells is also planned for 1981. These wells will be completed as dual producers.

Work on the computer study of the Sui reservoir is now in an advanced stage. The model has been installed on the ENAR Petrotech computer in Karachi and first results were expected by the end of April.

The chairman pointed out that "the first phase of the field development was less demanding in terms of operational and technological needs and was therefore not as capital intensive as future operations will be." The future phase will require import of a new rig for accelerated development drilling, wellhead gas compression to maintain contractual gas deli-

very pressure, augmentation of surface production facilities and independent development of the Upper Limestone reservoir at Sui for the utilisation of its pipeline quality gas. This programme will require very substantial cash outlays

Oil production from Adhi Well 5 began on 30th March last year. Since then all surface production and ancillary facilities including oil processing equipment have performed satisfactorily. During the period of nine months to end December, 1980, a total of 124,478 barrels of crude oil were produced, out of which PPL's share (50 percent) was 62,239 barrels. The crude was transported from Adhi to the Attock Refinery Ltd. plant at Morgah

Production conditions have not stabilised yet. The current daily rate is little over 500 barrels. Pakistan Petroleum incurred an expenditure of Rs. 5.78 million on exploration at Adhi in 1980.

Regarding the development of Adhi oil discovery the chairman recalled that in his last statement he had emphasised the need for drilling Adhi Well 7 in the interest of the joint venture and the country.

(Adhi Well 5 was drilled under a joint venture Agreement between PPL and AMOCO, with PPL as operator. The Agreement also covered further exploration and seismic work in East Potwar).

AMOCO, however, advised the Joint Venture Commitee of their decision to withdraw from the venture and to farm out their interest. The chairman explained in detail the steps leading to the procurement of a contract drilling rig and the spudding-in of Adhi Well 7. The rig was obtained from Deutsche Tiefoonr Aktiengesellschaft (Deutag) of West Germany who are drilling contractors for the well.

"Throughout this difficult period the assistance and support received from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources and other Government departments has been invaluable. The advice and support received from The Burmah Oil Company Limited is also warmly acknowledged".

"Your company was honoured when the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Major General (Retd.) Rao Farman Ali Khan inaugurated the spud-in of Adhi Well 7 on 30th March, 1981".

Wellhead Gas Price

The chairman reminded the shareholders that a case for an increase in the wellhead price of Sui gas had been submitted earlier to the Government.

After prolonged negotiations and thorough scrutiny of the case by the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Resources and Finance, the Government recently sanctioned an increase of 7 paisa per thousand cubic feet, raising the wellhead price to 66 paisa per Mcf with effect from 1st January, 1980.

A further representation has been made to government for a revision of the wellhead price as well as the gas price formula

The sale of condensate extracted from gas at Sui amounted to 22,450 barrels in 1980 compared to 21,843 barrels in 1979. The condensate sale price has also been renegotiated during the year

Speaking about Bolan Mining Enterprises (a 50:50 joint venture between PPL and the Government of Baluchistan) the chairman said that the local sales of barytes amounted to 11,722 tonnes in 1980. Both PPL and Government of Baluchistan increased their contributions to the project during the year, the chairman informed the shareholders.

Speaking about future prospects the chairman said that the company was fully conscious of its heavy responsibilities as Pakistan's major producer of natural gas and also as an explorer for future oil and gas reserves. PPL's gas production met more than 30 percent of the primary commercial energy needs of the country, he said.

PPL had the potential capability to continue to make significant further contributions to the development of Pakistan's hydrocarbon resources. To play this role effectively the company required the necessary financial backing.

A suitable revision of gas price would strengthen the company's financial resources. The chairman said that time was of very considerable essence and hoped that the company's proposals in this respect will receive timely, early and vigorous response from the Government.

The chairman concluded his statement with a tribute to all categories of staff who had acquitted themselves well throughout the year, often under trying circumstances.

CSO: 4220/288

PPL'S GAS SALES IN FIRST 3 WEEKS OF APRIL

Karachi PROGRESS in English May 81 p 3

[Text]

DURING the first three weeks of April, Pakistan Petroleum delivered an average of 576.6 million cubic feet of natural gas per day to the two transmission systems, north and south of Sui. This was purified gas. In addition, an average of about 70.3 million cubic feet of raw gas per day were supplied to WAPDA for its Gudu thermal power station.

These were the total requirements of PPL's three customers.

Offtakes by Sui Northern Gas Pipelines averaged a little over 315 million cubic feet per day and by Sui Gas Transmission about 261.5 million cubic feet per day. In terms of raw gas PPL's total production from Sui stood at an average of about 710 million cubic feet per day in the first three weeks of April.

In the purification process some impurities are removed from the raw gas. In the case of Sui gas these are about eight percent. Pipeline quality gas is, therefore, some eight percent less than the raw gas produced.

In addition some gas is used at Sui itself, the bulk of it for industrial purposes.

The purification plant at Sui at present has a capacity of about 670 million cubic feet per day of purified gas. The two SGTC pipelines south of Sui have a maximum capacity of 270 MMcfd of purified gas. SNGPL pipeline, which caters to the northern region has, it is believed, a transmission capacity of 380 MMcfd of purified gas at present.

CSO: 4220/288

NEED FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN AGRICULTURE SEEN

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 16 May 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Planning Paradoxes"]

[Text]

Is it a fact that two sets of statistics—one for public consumption and the other for official purposes—are maintained by various ministries and departments? If it is so, it will mean deliberate effort to keep the public misinformed about vital affairs of the country. The official publicists, particularly those from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture have been dinning into the ears of the tax payers that we are going to have a bumper wheat crop this year. Not only that we will achieve the production target of 11.34 million metric tons but also surpass it leaving a substantial amount of exportable surplus. But now, it appears that the Ministry, for reasons best known to it, has started reeling from this position and has come out with an authoritative statement that 'total availability' of wheat after allowing ten per cent for seed, feed and wastage would be around 10.21 million metric tons against 10.55 million metric tons of consumption requirements. This means that there would a deficit of 0.34 million metric tons which obviously will have to be met through imports.

The failure has been due to what, has not been explained by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The tax payers have been paying through their nose for the various agricultural development programmes initiated by the Ministry, and as such it is their right to know and to be told what has happened. The public was given to understand that this year we are going to achieve autarky in wheat. But now it seems that autarky remains an elusive goal, and that the strategy that we have been working on for so long has failed to produce results. For solving our food problem great hopes were once pinned on seed-based green or grain revolution centring on wheat and rice. But this revolution has not covered even a fifth of our farm area. The successful cultivation of Mexican wheat and IRRI rice hinges on large-scale investments. It is feasible only on rich soil and with the use of fertilisers, corresponding machinery and implements and with strict application of agro-technigal norms. Those farmers who can apply the new technology can boost their incomes by 200 to 300 per cent. The gap of material well-being between them and those who apply the traditional methods is thus greatly widened. An increased number of small peasants is thus forced to break its ties with agriculture and swarm into towns in search of jobs. The Ministry has failed to alleviate the plight of small peasants without which achieving autarky would be hard to achieve.

Plenty brings more problems than it solves. Adequate storage facilities on scientific lines are not available in the country. We have been hearing off and on that schemes for increasing storage capacity are being prepared and foreign assistance sought for the purpose. But things stand where they were, and even today we have to resort to improvised and outdated methods of storage of wheat. According to the Ministry, the total availability of covered storage capacity by the end of June 1981, would be about 2.48 million metric tons which could accommodate about 2.90 million metric tons of wheat through improvisation. In addition, raised platforms and plinths covered with tarpaulins are also available for the storage of about 0.61 million metric tons. The provincial governments also obtain private godowns on rent for the purpose. Last year private godowns with storage capacity of about 0.25 million metric tons were hired.

These statistics prove that no permanent and adequate arrangements for storage of wheat on scientific lines are available in the country. In a situation like this, it cannot be said that our agricultural planers and executives have not all been sitting there twiddling their thumbs. Impressive figures are flashed in the face of the critics as has been done in the above quoted statement. According to an estimate about 5 per cent of the crop is wasted due to substandard storage. Can we afford this colossal loss? When Herculean efforts are put in to increase food production why was it not envisaged that with increased production more storage capacity would be required? Apart from what Government can do—and it can certainly do better than it has done so far—the only answer lies in co-operative effort or luring the private enterprise to enter this field.

CSO: 4220/288

OFFICIAL INTERFERENCE SAID TO STIFLE PRIVATE INITIATIVE

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 14 May 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Counter-Productive"]

[Text]

What has been done to industry, it seems, is now being done to agriculture. In the sixties with comparatively more freedom and less of Government in economic affairs, the private enterprise was quite active. And in course of time, it succeeded in creating an industrial base, however small it may be, for the country to move forward. But in the seventies the private sector was robbed of that freedom and the official interference increased to such an extent that the individual initiative almost totally disappeared. As a result, development came to a standstill and the economy almost collapsed. There were some signs of relaxation in these controls when the present Government took over. Certain procedural difficulties were removed, but at the same time some new measures in the form of new official agencies were taken, which negated the steps taken earlier. Now the draft company law ordinance which is yet to be promulgated has created terror and the speed of economic revival has slowed down. At the moment a debate is going on and the saner elements are coming out with arguments against taking measures which might prove counter-productive. It is not the time for experimentation. It is time to accelerate the pace of economic revival. And once the economy has been put back on the rails, the country may afford the luxury of any experiment our economic managers like to do.

In the field of agriculture, the Government took some realistic measures and paid attention to this all-important sector of the economy which was neglected in the past, which produced the desired results. During the last three years, agriculture showed a remarkable improvement which enabled us to achieve a growth rate in our GDP double the rate of growth in our population. But the way things are being planned for the future might retard the pace of improvement, though steps are being taken with a view to provding more facilities to the farmers and increasing the production. In the early seventies we have had a bumper cotton crop of almost four million bales. Soon after, foreign experts were invited to advise on further improving the production of the silver fibre. What happened after that is well known. Production of the crop dwindled to such an extent that at one time we were planning to import cotton to meet our domestic demand.

To be over-zealous is as bad rather worse than being totally complascent, and in the field of agriculture our bureaucracy is now showing over-zealousness. A number of new

bodies are being created all with lofty objectives. There are separate boards for separate crops; then there are commissions and committees dealing with different services. Besides the Federal and Provincial agriculture divisions and departments, there are numerous other agencies duplicating the work of each other without proper coordination. All such measures apart from creating confusion, add to the cost of development. And in agriculture like any other sector of economy a balance and better ratio has got be struck between the inputs and outputs. We have been stressing the need to assess the price which the country is being made to pay to increase agricultural production. With the creation of new bodies the costs are bound to increase, which by all means will be counter-productive.

Only the other day the Government decided to set up an oilseed Development Board with the sole objective of increasing the production of oilseeds in the country. No one can deny the need for achieving autarky in oilseeds and edible oils which are being imported at the moment at high prices. Initially the job was assigned to an autonomous body known as the Pakistan Edible Oils Corporation. The corporation besides importing the oil, was also to look after the seed production in the country. During two or three years of its existence it did a good job as far as the imports were concerned. By the time funds were sanctioned to implement the oilseed production programme, the corporation was wound up and the programme was allowed to die its own death. The money spent on the initial planning went down the drain. Now a board has been created to do the job, which could be done without it. The existing federal and provincial agencies have their own research and development programmes. All discoveries made in improving the quality of seeds, process of sowing application of fertilisers, etc., should be passed on to the farmers through their extension services. This only calls for strengthening the agricultural extension services rather than creating new agencies for the production of each and every commodity or use of commodity. Such moves besides adding to the overall costs of development also help in the fostering bureaucratic rivalries which result in defeating the purpose of development. We would urge the Government not only to refrain from creating new agencies but also to think of winding up some so that things could move more freely and smoothly.

CSO: 4220/288

ILLEGAL IMPORTS, CUSTOMS CORRUPTION ASSAILED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 May 81 p 4

[Editorial: "Illegal Imports"]

[Text]

THERE are forms of corruption which cannot be easily eradicated. Among these are offences committed in violation of the Customs Act. Anyone who's anyone at all can bring in any item that he wants to, and that also with the active encouragement and assistance of the national carrier. If one wants to make easy money, the only thing one requires is a return ticket to the Far or the Middle East or wherever the going is good. One will fly, for instance, to Hong Kong, buy a hundred or more jeans or bagsful of children's wear and will have what the PIA calls 'excess baggage'. Back in Islamabad or Karachi, he can negotiate, hand in an appropriate amount in dollars and all his suitcases will be suitably 'cleared'. He can sell the goods to eager shopkeepers in Gulberg or Shadman at double or triple the price and net a cool ten thousand—tax-free. If one starts with say, ten thousand, one will have anything in the neighbourhood of 250,000 for just eight trips taken and expenses paid. There are people who have done this with exciting results by throwing conscience, national interest and uncomfortable things like that overboard.

We can't, of course, prove all this but we are sure that unofficial and unrecorded imports are far more lucrative than those for which you have to seek permission and permits from the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. But if the Government has any intention at all of stopping or even limiting illegal imports, it will have to enter the field itself. One way of doing so could be the establishment of duty-free dollar shops at our interntional airports. Any one who is coming home loaded with petrodollars, could land at Karachi, for instance, pay in foreign exchange for all the VCRs, music systems and other electronic bric a brac, keep whatever he needs for himself and sell the rest at great profit in the open market or to individual customers. Some of the dollars will start coming home, prices will go down somewhat and, above all, the PIA and Customs people will lose a lot of dough they don't deserve. Workers overseas will be spared a lot of bother with these two departments and who couldn't love to see just that! Controls lead to corruption even in centrally planned economies, not to speak of poor, underdeveloped countries like Pakistan. There's no other way we could force the Customs and the PIA staff to play the game as it ought to be played.

CSO: 4220/288

RICE POLICY SEEN THREATENING PRODUCTION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 May 81 p 8

[Article by Saeed Qureshi]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, May 7: Concern is being expressed both in official and private circles about the current rice policy. There is consensus that if corrective steps were not taken rice production would further decline which in turn would curtail the foreign exchange inflow.

Rice growing has, they say, become a liability for the cultivators who have to invest over Rs. 1,500 per acre while the return did not exceed Rs. 1,200 even if the latest support price is also included. The IRRI rice which is sown in June needs 18 waters each costing Rs. 60 per acre if irrigated by tubewells run by either electricity or diesel.

Syed Mukhtar Hussain, a progressive farmer from Punjab told The Muslim that although Punjab could produce one million tons of IRRI, it was hardly growing 60,000 tons while the federally fixed procurement target was 300,000 tons and for provinces 100,000 tons. The shortfall if worked out in terms of foreign exchange comes to Rs. 400 million dollars.

He said while the Rice Corporation was earning 325 dollars per ton on the export of IRRI, it pays only a fraction of that amount to the farmers who were already hard-pressed by the rising cost of fertilisers, fuel and pesticides.

He said though the official figures painted a rosy picture, the situation on the ground was very gloomy and a good number of farmers were changing over to sugarcane cultivation while the farm labour was moving to cities in search of jobs, which was causing innumerable social and economic problems.

Once the influx of rural population gathers momentum due to unstable farm conditions, the deurbanisation would become an impossibility, he claimed.

The emphasis on sugarcane production is likely to flood the markets with surplus sugar in the coming few years whose judicious and fruitful disposal both at home and abroad would pose a serious problem to the government, Col. Mukhtar said.

Another government source expressed his fears over what he called the unbalanced policies saying that the future of both IRRI and Basmati was dark unless a portion of government income was shared with the farmers in the shape of rational prices, easy credit terms, rebated rate of diesel, electricity and water and linking the rice marketing with production. He said a modus operandi should be evolved to advance loans to the farmers to enable them to overcome financial hurdles.

Disclosing the latest rice yield in Sind and Punjab he said IRRI-6 in Punjab had immensely degenerated and now no farmer got 30 maunds per acre on an average against 60 maunds a decade back. In Sind, the productivity has, however, gone up from 24 to 36 maunds per acre upsetting the scientific data and predictions of the experts.

In India, he said, a farmer had to pay a fixed rate of Rs. 80 for fuel while in Pakistan diesel price had gone up from Rs. 2.25 to Rs. 2.75 per litre, which, he feared, would result in the closure of several thousand tubewells in the country.

Underlining the need for a more realistic, consistent and long-term policy towards rice, a major cash crop, the source said, "The sooner it is the better it would both be in the interest of farming community and the country as a whole."

CSO: 4220/288

BRIEFS

ANTI-TERRORIST SQUADS FOR SIND--Karachi, May 27--Trained and armed anti-terrorist squads have been raised in Sind Province to cope with the contingencies arising out of terrorist activities. This was disclosed by the Inspector-General of Police, Sind, Arabab Hidayatullah, while talking to newsmen at his office here today. The IGP said that recent hijacking of PIA plane and the firing incident at the Karachi University have prompted the raising of these squads. These squads, he added, would be stationed at Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur. The Sind Police chief said that the Special Branch of Police was also being fully reorganised from July 1, in the context of the present day threat of subversion and sabotage by the enemies of the country.--APP [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 May 81 p 8]

BIGGEST LPG PROJECT--Karachi, May 25--The Pakistan Oilfields Ltd., this morning signed a 7.8 million U.S. dollar contract with an Italian company for the construction of a 284 metric tons per day production capacity Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) plant at Meyal. The Meyal LPG project, the biggest to be established in Pakistan, will convert the associated gas of the Meyal field into LPG. Under the terms of the contract, the Italian company will construct the plant on a turn key basis. The project is scheduled for completion in sixteen months and should go into production by October 1982. The Pakistan Oil Fields Ltd. is a joint venture between the Attock Oil Company and the Government of Pakistan. The estimated cost of the project, is about Rs. 110 million including a foreign exchange component of U.S. dollars seven million.--APP [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 May 81 p 1]

ARMY RECRUITING PROGRAM--The Peshawar Recruiting Centre of the Army has announced next fornight's recruitment programme for the territories under its Peshawar, Kohat and Dera Ismail Khan Branch Offices. In addition to the regular recruitment that takes place at all three Branch Offices daily recruitment parties will visit various places to enlist young men for the Army according to the following programme: The recruitment on 20 May, 1981 will take place at Govt. High School Kot Jai; on 21 May at Rest House Timergarah and Middle School Jabbar/Primary School Chorlaki; on 26 May, 1981 at Govt. High School Nizampur, Community Centre Karak and Town Hall Lakki Marwat; on 27 May 1981 at Govt. High School Swari, Dak Bungalow Isa Khel. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 19 May 81 p 6]

CSO: 4220/288

GOVERNMENT SET TO ABSORB RURAL BANK ARREARS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 May 81 p 25

[Text]

President Marcos directed yesterday the Ministry of Finance to look into the possibility of "adopting a cost-sharing scheme whereby the national government, by floating long-term capital bonds, would be able to absorb a portion of the arrearages of rural banks."

The President, in a speech read for him by Central Bank Gov. Jaime C. Laya at a program opening the three-day convention of the Rural Bank sassociation of the Philippines, the President took note of the rural bank arrearages problem brought about by the inability of farmers to repay their loans.

He expressed hope that a presidential directive he earlier issued could provide a just and lasting solution to the problem of rural bank arrearages. The Central Bank issued recently a circular implementing the directive which calls for, among others, the extension of the implementation period for the rehabilitation program for distressed rural banks to 10 years.

"This is possibly a happy medium or compromise between what rural bankers have been asking for and the CB is prepare to give," he said. He added that on top of these measures, he is directing the Ministry of Finance "to explore the possibility of adopting a cost-sharing scheme whereby the government would be able to absorb a portion of rural bank arrearages."

President Marcos also took note of the low tax-exempt ceilings of P1 million to P3 million provided for rural banks.

He said that because of the low tax-exempt ceilings, many rural banks declare dividends and incur unnecessary expenses in an effort to maintain the common paid-in capital at amounts below the tax-exempt ceilings. This has become a disincentive to the equity expansion of rural banks, he observed.

In resolving the problem, the President directed the Ministry of Finance to prepare a Batasan bill or Cabinet bill "that will align the tax exemption privileges of rural banks with those of private development banks.

The bill, if enacted into law, would enable the rural banks to enjoy up to 1985 higher tax exemption ceilings of P10 million to P30 million "depending on their respective classifications."

Observing that implementation of the universal banking concept has lessened the competitiveness of rural banks, Marcos ordered the ministries of finance and budget and CB "to collectively find ways and means of increasing the annual appropriation for capital assistance to rural banks."

He said that "it may therefore be necessary for the CB to review its rediscounting policies with the end in view of eliminating legal specializations that could hinder the growth and profitability of rural banks."

CSO: 4220/289

MUSLIM GROUP SEEKS END TO WAR

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 14 May 81 pp 1, 10

[Text]

Marawi-based 'ulamas" (Muslim religious leaders) sounded an appeal to every Filipino yesterday to help stop the blood-letting in the south so that Mindanao could be socially and economically developed like the other regions.

The ulamas, led by Sheik Imam Ismail Yanyah, director and Imam f Jamio Mindanao-Al-Islamiyah; and Macud Baunto, director-secretary of Jamio Mindanao-Al-I s l amei and secretary-general of Ansar El-Islam, called on President Marcos at Malacañang yesterday.

Before seeing the President, the ulamas visited and prayed at the mosque built by the First Lady in Malacañang.

The President expressed gratitude for the support the government is receiving from the religious leaders.

The ulamas informed the President that they were organizing a national association of Ulamas and Ustadz in order that they can put up the necessary infrastructure starting in Cebu. They will then move to other areas.

"The Ulamas, like all other sectors of the Muslim society, are helping the government in maintaining peace and order in the southern region and implementing the Tripoli agreement," public information minister officer-in-charge Gregorio S. Cendaña pointed out.

The visiting Ulamas asked the President to congratulate the First Lady for her interest in preserving Muslim culture. Responding, the President said: "That is part of the Filipino cul-

The Ulamas who called on the President included Hadji Malik Toroganan, member of the Jamio Mindanao-Al-Islamic and the Central Committee of Ansar Islam; Hadji Aziz Saripada, member of the Jamio Mindanao Al-Islam and the central committee of Ansar Islam; Datu Dauday Osodan, secretary general of the Cebu Islamic center; Datu Hadji Omar Mai, vice president of Maahad Dist-saan-Ramain Al-I s l amie, Lanao del Sur;

Datu Panaggilaan Saripada, director of Maahad Distsaan-Ramain Al-Islamie and district coordinator of Ansar Al-Islam; Hadji Carim Mastura, director of Busyanan Maahad Al-Islamie, Lanao del Sur; Hadji Bumbun Baunto, member of the board of trustees, F i l-Am Humanitarian Foundation and Ansar Al Islam;

Hadji Hassan Batara, director of Maahad Distsaan-R a m a in Al-Islamie and Ansar Al Islam; Hadji Abdul Rahim Toroganan, director of Pagalongan Arabic Organization and member, Ansar Al Islam; Prof. Datu Casan and Datu Minoma Bubong, member of the Ansar El Islam.

Sheik Yahya, the leader of the group, is the father of Jamel Yahya, chairman of the foreign relations committee of the Salamat faction, MNLF, an outstanding member of the ruling committee of Ansar El Islam, and present Imam of the Jamio al Islamie, Marawi Islamic center.

CSO: 4220/269

FL SIGNS ENERGY LOAN PACT

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 18 May 81 pp 1, 6

[Text]

LEGAZPI CITY, May 17 – The First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos last night signed P57.5 million loans with the Asian Development Bank to finance nine energy related projects in Bicol region.

The bulk of the loans will finance the expansion of power lines of six electric cooperatives and hasten the pace of rural electrification.

A total of P33,123,000 will go to five rural electrification projects, P17,647,200 to two mini-hydros and P6,395,000 to dendro-thermal projects.

The loans will be used by Albay Electric Cooperative Inc., Camarines Sur IV Electric Cooperative Inc., Sorsogon I Electric Cooperative Inc., Sorsogon II Electric Cooperative Inc., and the Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. They will undertake the projects.

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THE DENDRO project in Caramoan-Presentacion, Camarines Sur, involves a 1,100-hectare tree plantation, and the one at Virac, Catanduanes, involves 600 hectares.

The two mini-hydros in the Hitoma river, and in the Balongbong Brook, both in Catanduanes, are designed to deliver 600 kilowatts each. Both are expected to operate in 1982.

Equipment from the People's Republic of China will be used in the Hitoma river mini-hydro and locally-fabricated equipment will be used in the Balongbong Brook mini-hydro.

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THE DENDRO tree plantation in Virac will employ 50 farmers, reforest 600 hectares, maintain ecological balance, and set the pace for the agro-industrial development of the area.

The dendro project in Presentacion and Caramoan towns will employ 117 farmers, reforest 1,100 hectares and quicken the pace of agro-industrial development in Camarines Sur.

At present, 1,200 rural homes are being electrified every day through the national rural electrification program.

The First Lady arrived in Bicol yesterday in the course of her "campaign for development." She said the current presidential campaign is only "an alibi to accelerate the development of the country, particularly of the countryside."

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PRESIDENT MARCOS also said the country has taken tremendous strides in the conservation of its natural resources so future generations would continue to enjoy them.

He praised the Ministry of Natural Resources on its 7th anniversary for the management of the country's forests, fisheries, lands and mines.

The President cited the decline on log exports from 6 million cubic meters from 1970 to 1975 to 1.9 million cu. m. from 1976 to 1980.

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THE PRESIDENT also said:

1. Reforestation began to exceed deforestation by 12,467 hectares in 1978. In 1980, the reforestation netted 32,123 hectares.

2. The Biyaya ng Dagat started in 1979, received 16,000 applications. Of these, 4,271 have been given credit.

3. In 1980 fish exports rose to 65,000 metric tons worth P[illegible] million.

4. Tree planting program has been accelerated towards dendro-thermal source of energy, with some 3,600 hectares planted to ipil-ipil which can also provide animal feeds for export, and fuel charcoal-fed engines.

5. Twelve breeding stations, one for each region, have been set up for a national bangus breeding program.

CSO: 4220/289

AMOCO SETS SULU SEA EXPLORATION

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 May 81 p 10

[Article by Samuel V. Senoren]

[Text]

A NEW consortium of local and foreign exploration companies was formed recently to search for oil in the Sulu Sea, in an area believed to be an extension of oil bearing zones off the coast of Borneo.

The new group is composed of Amoco, Sulu Sea Oil Co. as operators Bow Valley Exploration Ltd., Endeavour Resources Ltd. and Trans-Asia Oil and Mineral Development Corp.

The Sulu Sea consortium was granted yesterday by the Ministry of Energy a geophysical survey contract which can be readily converted into a regular service contract.

Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco said the geophysical survey contract covers 1.45 million hectares. Under the contract, the consortium is to shoot about 2,000 kilometers of marine reflection digital seismic and 6,000 kms. of aeromagnetic survey and drill one exploratory well.

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IF THE group decides to convert the survey contract into a regular service contract, it is bound to drill at least 11 wells during a seven-year period at an estimated cost of about $33 million.

According to the ministry, the survey area was previously covered by a similar contract granted to Bow Valley which shot a total of 1,374 kms. The results of the Bow Valley survey, however, were not definitive as it showed only one drillable structure.

Velasco also announced the grant of contract to Oriental Petroleum to survey the Central Luzon area. The contract calls for a seismic program of 200-line kms. When converted into a regular service contract, Oriental will drill 11 wells during a seven-year period at a projected cost of $24 million.

CSO: 4220/289

BRIEFS

RANK IN FOOD PRODUCTION--The Philippines ranked 15 in food production growth all over the world, Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco said. Tanco cited a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) study on the comparative performance of countries in food and agricultural production from 1969 to 1980 where the Philippines had a food production index of 147. World index on food production for 1969 to 1980 is only 125 while that of Asia is 131, Tanco said. Philippine agricultural production growth is indexed by FAO at 149, compared to the world's 124 and to Asia's 130, Tanco added. On May 15, President Marcos and the First Lady Imelda R. Marcos will join the countrys' 6.8 million farmers in Farmers Week closing ceremonies at the Folk Arts Theater. [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 14 May 81 p 28]

RP COMPANY BAGS CONTRACT--The Guideco Group, one of the largest Muslim-owned corporations in the Philippines, has won a US$71 million management and operations contract of the Iraqi-Jordan Land Transport company, a joint venture of the governments of Iraq and the Kingdom of Jordan. This was announced by Sultan Omar Dianalan, chairman and president of the Guideco Group of Companies upon his arrival from an extended business negotiations in the Middle East and Europe for the project. Dianalan said that this is the biggest single management and operations contract ever won by a Filipino company in Jordan. Dianalan has more than three decades of experience in land transport. His family operated the biggest land transportation company in Mindanao. Guideco's experience in trucking operations primarily stems from its contracts for the supply and hauling of aggregates for the NPC Agus hydroelectric projects in Mindanao. Vic del Fierro, Jr., management consultant and spokesman for the company, disclosed that more than 500 Muslim and Christian Filipinos will be sent between this month up to July for the management and operations of the project. [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 18 May 81 p 9]

FREE MEDICINE PROGRAM ENDORSED--Dr. Nilo O. Roa, past president of the Camarines Medical Association and of the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, congratulated the President and First Lady for launching the "Kalusugan Sa Bagong Lipunan," a program aimed at extending both urban and rural poor dwellers free medicines. In a letter addressed to the First Couple, Roa said that the free medicine program deserves the support of all sectors of society as it is one of the most meaningful government efforts urgently needed to save millions of our brother Filipinos who are dying because of their inability to afford the present

cost of medicines. To insure that the medicines should reach those who really need them most, Roa suggested that the program must be carried out by people who have utmost dedication, missionary zeal and an innate sense of social conscience, otherwise the medicines might fall into the hands of the wrong recipients. As a rural health officer himself, Roa, in his letter to the President and the First Lady, said that in the coastal towns and barrios of Camarines Sur, eighty per cent of the patients could not afford medicines. "It is because of this sad situation in my areas that I hail your free medicine program as timely and humanely meaningful," he said. [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 18 May 81 p 40]

CSO: 4220/289

USSR WANTS THAI HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

Thailand THE NATION REVIEW in English 21 Apr 81 p 3

[Text]

THE Soviet Union recently said it was ready to admit students from Thailand to its higher educational establishments.

During a meeting with 10 professors from Thammasat University in Moscow, Soviet Deputy Minister of Higher Education Nikolai Sofinsky saidthe Soviet Government would shoulder the expenses for such programme, according to Soviet news agency APN.

"We agree to sign a protocol for training specialists with Thailand for certain period, say, for five years, to be gin with," he said.

Sofinsky also told the Thai professors, who were making a one-week visit to the Soviet Union, that his government were also ready to consider a proposal to send to Thailand Soviet teachers.

"For our part we are interested that students learning the Thai language in our higher educational establishments have a chance to undergo practical training in Thailand," he said.

More than 85,000 foreign students, postgraduates and part-time exchange students from 140 countries attend Soviet higher educational establishments.

The Thai professors visiting the Soviet Union included Prof Mongkol Sisophon and Prof Suepsaeng Promboon.

CSO: 4220/292

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